

## Mourning period declared

AMMAN — The Royal Court on Tuesday declared 40 days of mourning for Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who passed away at the age of 85. Condolences will be received for three days beginning Wednesday. Men can offer their condolences at the Raghadan Palace while women can do so at the Basman Palace, the Royal Court said. A register of condolences will be opened at the Royal Court after the three-day period and will remain open until the end of the 40-day mourning. The government also announced that Wednesday will be a public day of mourning and all government institutions, schools and universities will remain closed on the day.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

## Funeral arrangements announced

AMMAN — The body of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf will be laid to rest Wednesday noon at the Royal Cemetery after funeral prayers at the Royal Guards Mosque, the Royal Court announced. The Royal Court said mourners will include the Royal Court members, the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, the speakers and members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and other senior officials, heads of diplomatic missions and senior army officers. King Hussein, the Princes and the sharifs will accept condolences from officials after the funeral, which will be transmitted live by Jordan Television starting at 10 a.m.

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# Jordan goes into mourning over passing of Queen Mother

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan went into mourning yesterday over the death of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who passed away at a hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland at the age of 85.

His Majesty King Hussein late last evening flew the plane carrying the body of the late Queen to an emotional reception attended by members of the Royal Family and senior government and army officials among other dignitaries.

King Hussein, who was on a private visit to Britain where he underwent ear surgery, flew to Lausanne along with Her Majesty Queen Noor to bring the body home. Her Royal Highness Princess Basma had flown to Lausanne on Monday when the Queen Mother's condition deteriorated.

An honour guard carried the Queen's casket, which was draped with the Jordanian flag, as an army band played the funeral salute and flags flew at half mast.

King Hussein escorted the motorcade, which accompanied the ambulance that carried the body of the late Queen from the airport to Zahran Palace. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was in the ambulance that carried the body of the late Queen.

Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Faisal and Prince Ali and other princes and princesses and members of the Royal Family were at the airport to receive the body of the Queen.

The Editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing of

### Her Majesty Queen Zein

The Queen Mother

who dedicated her life to her family and country. We extend our heartfelt condolences to His Majesty King Hussein, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Crown Prince Hassan, Princess Basma and the Royal Hashemite Family.

May God bless her soul

Mother.

Prime Minister Abdil Salam Majali, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and other senior officials were also at the Amman Civil Airport in Marks to receive the body of the late Queen.

In a cable to Prince Hassan, King Hussein mourned the Queen Mother as "a Muslim, faithful Hashemite" who was happy with her sons and daughter and family.

"Her soul joined the soul of our father King Talal," said the King. "Her memory will live in our souls forever," said King Hussein, expressing faith in God's will. "She went into the mercy of God and to His heaven."

In a reply cable to King

Hussein, Prince Hassan conveyed his condolences and those of the Jordanian people to the King over the passing of the Queen Mother.

King Hussein announced a 40-day mourning period at the Royal Court and Prime Minister Majali said the Kingdom will observe an official mourning period of seven days during which flags will be at half mast. The Kingdom will today observe a public day of mourning.

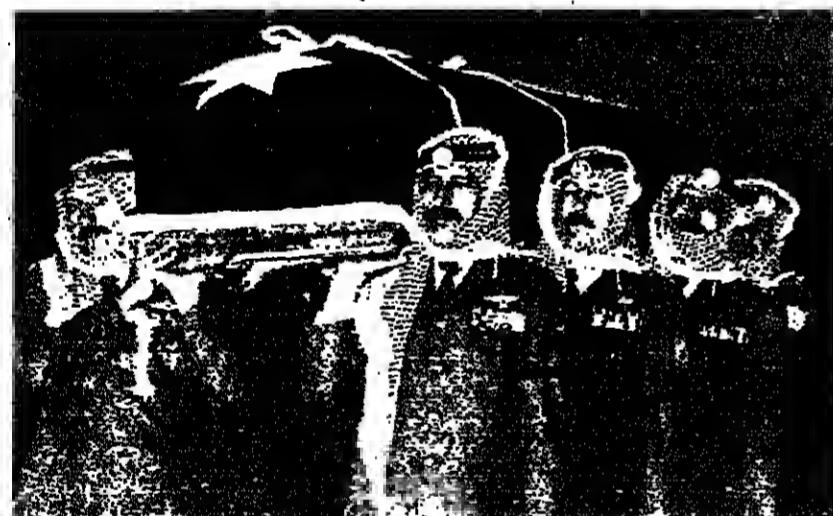
In a letter to the King, Dr. Majali said the Queen Mother died after a life full of dedication and generosity.

The speakers of Parliament, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other senior officials sent letters of condolences to the King, expressing their grief over the late Queen whom they described as a mother to all Jordanians.

King Hussein received cables of condolences from heads of state of Arab and Muslim countries. Cables were sent by Sultan Qaboos of Oman, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, Pakistani President Enver Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir.



His Majesty King Hussein kisses the hand of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, upon his return from the U.S. after successful surgery on Sept. 24, 1992 (file photo)



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma arrive home on Tuesday with the body of Her Majesty

Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who passed away in a hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland, and are received by His Royal Highness

Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other members of the Royal Family (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Queen Zein leaves her mark

QUEEN Zein Al Sharaf was born on Aug. 2, 1906. She was married to King Talal Ben Abdullah in 1934 and was the mother of three sons and one daughter: His Majesty King Hussein, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Prince Hassan and Princess Basma. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal and Princess Zein were involved in the early development of Jordan under the leadership of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein.

The Queen Mother played a key role in the political development of the Kingdom in the early 1950s, in the writing of the 1952 Constitution and in social development in the country.

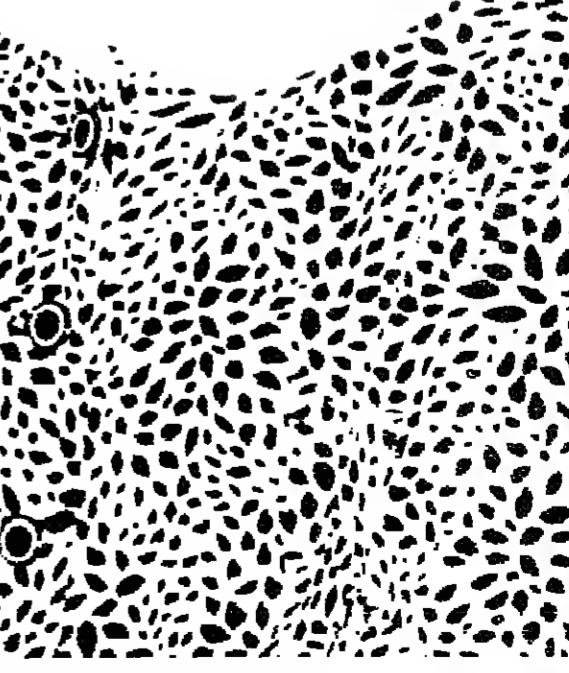
Queen Zein filled a constitutional vacuum after the assassination of King Abdullah in 1951 while the newly proclaimed King Talal was being treated in Switzerland and later in the period between August 1952 when King Hussein was proclaimed Monarch and in 1953 when he assumed his constitutional duties at the age of 18, during which a regency council was entrusted to run the affairs of the state.

The Queen's influence in the writing of the 1952 Constitution ensured that it gave full rights to women. The late Queen has been the symbol of motherhood, selflessly dedicating her entire life to her children and country.

The Queen Mother led the way for the creation of the first women's union in Jordan in 1944 and was its president.

She was also instrumental in establishing the women's branch of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in 1948 and dedicated time and effort to the Um Al Hussein Orphanage in Amman.

Queen Zein contributed much to social and humanitarian services in the Kingdom and gave particular attention to the nation's charitable organisations and voluntary institutions.



## Gazans know more of misery than history

By Donna Abu Nasr  
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip — To most people, Gaza's waterfront is a squalid tableau of refugee camps, open sewers and veiled women riding donkey carts. But Said Abu Haseer's pictures bear-gazing, sun-tan oiled tourists cramming beaches or strolling by Samson's tomb.

He and a small band of cobots figure like skies, blue sea, and the footprints of history are the makings of a tourism bonanza once Palestinian self-rule cures Gaza's more obvious ills.

Other Gazans wonder what could lure visitors to a place once dubbed "Hell's Riviera," with not a tourist draw to its name.

"I'd like to build a hotel, but I can't decide where because I really don't know where the historic ruins are," said businessman Nawaf Abdallah.

About the only well-preserved historic site in Gaza is a World War I-era foreign cemetery. Archaeologists cannot even agree on whether Biblical shepherd Samson was buried here after bringing a temple down on his head.

And the prevalent local celebration is a memorial service for someone slain in

clashes with Israel.

Gaza, population almost one million, has never had a tourist industry, unless you count armies stopping on their way to attack Egypt or the Holy Land.

Samson met his death here after his fatal attraction to Delilah, a conniving Philistine seductress who robbed him of his strength.

Napoleon is reputed to have spent three nights in Gaza City during his unsuccessful campaign to win the Middle East from the British.

About 3,500 British and other allies soldiers were killed in Gaza in the two world wars. A rutted road lined with car repair shops leads to the Gaza war cemetery, the only well-tended public space on the hill.

"We're afraid that once we've convinced the importance of these places, they will plunder them," said Mohammad Sadeq, a Palestinian archaeologist.

Archaeologists say there are at least 67 historic sites in Gaza, including 15 ancient buildings, a Greek Orthodox church dating to 425, an 8th century mosque, two Turkish baths and dozens of Ottoman houses.

All are in an advanced state of decay. Political graffiti obscures the crumbling walls of the church and mosques. The tiny gold bazaar stinks. A T-shirt vendor's wares cover the small domed building known

as Samson's tomb.

Other obstacles to tourism include no airport, no tourist buses, no car rental agencies, no guide books, no brochures, no postcards, no movie theaters and not much shopping.

Muslim fundamentalists banned women from swimming in bathing suits in 1978, and closed the last restaurant serving liquor 10 years later.

The only map used in the strip is issued by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency to help drivers weave through an explosive mix of 19 Jewish settlements and eight Palestinian refugee camps.

At their most optimistic, economists think it will be at least five years before Gaza attracts even the most intrepid tourists.

But aspiring tourism magnates are unfazed.

With the approval of Islamic activists, Mr. Abu Haseer obtained a municipal liquor license for non-Muslim tipplers, found belly-dancers to perform at his restaurant, and contracted two Chinese couples to serve in Gaza's first ethnic restaurant.

"With peace everything is possible," he said. "Tourists, beer, belly-dancers and bikinis."

Israel built up huge spy networks in the occupied territories to break the Palestinian uprising. Hundreds of them live in isolated villages under Israeli protection, but many more suspected collaborators still live among the Arab population.

The Israeli human rights group Betsellem says between 700-900 Palestinians accused of collaborating have been killed by their own people since the Palestinian uprising against Israel erupted in 1987.

Suspicious of outsiders and armed to the teeth, most of the collaborators of Fathima said they had happily taken up an offer by Israel's intelligence agencies of a new life in Israel. "I'm an Israeli, not a Palestinian since Israel has welcomed me and my family," said Sati Sharqawi, 27. "We will be loyal soldiers for Israel. My people oppressed me. I was not born a spy, they made me into one."

Mr. Sharqawi, originally from the town of Jenin, said he was recruited to work for Israel while serving an eight-year jail sentence for activities as a supporter of PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat's Pateh faction.

He said six of his family had been forced to leave their homes when it became known he was a collaborator. Israel had also agreed to allow them and their families to move, he said.

Residents said the whole village of about 250 people was tortured and killed every year.

## Palestinian collaborators prepare to move to Israel

FAHMA, occupied West Bank (R) — Palestinian collaborators living in this poverty-stricken village say dozens of them received Israeli identity cards this month and are preparing to move to Israel when Palestinian self-rule starts.

They confirmed Israeli press reports that Israel was planning to protect Palestinians who spied for its security forces by allowing them to move to Israel after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) refused to guarantee their safety under self-rule.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Canada wants to sell Kuwait warships

KUWAIT (AP) — Canada wants to sell naval vessels and light armoured vehicles to Kuwait, Ottawa's international trade minister said Monday. "We have an interest in providing naval vessels to the Kuwaiti navy," Roy MacLaren told reporters after meetings with Kuwait's emir, crown prince and our ministers. Mr. MacLaren arrived Sunday night on a brief visit seeking to improve commercial cooperation with Kuwait. He left for Saudi Arabia Monday night. Mr. MacLaren said the vessels were "medium to smaller sized types," but gave no other details. He said Canada wants to act as subcontractor to Britain's GKN military equipment manufacturer in selling light armoured vehicles to the emirate. Kuwait, which is still rebuilding its military after it was crushed during Iraq's August 1990 invasion, is buying more than 200 warrior armoured fighting vehicles built by GKN. The Warrior made its combat debut during the 1991 Gulf war. But the army is believed to be still seeking to acquire some 100 light armoured vehicles.

Nafie Jabb, 30, said he would move as soon as a Palestinian self-rule authority arrived in Gaza and Jericho. Israeli and PLO negotiators are trying to wrap up an agreement in Cairo now and self-rule could start within a few weeks.

"I don't think the authority

can control the behaviour of the Palestinian street, which has never known any discipline. We cannot just sit quiet when they want to kill us," he said.

He said Israeli authorities had asked them where they would like to live and work inside the Jewish state. Small communities of Palestinian collaborators already live near Tel Aviv.

The settlement they now live in is a run-down army camp. Just opposite the entrance, an Israeli army post monitors the main road.

Most houses are one or two-room concrete bungalows with sparse furnishings. There is no telephone, and electricity is often cut off. A school on site makes sure children do not have to leave the camp, cutting contact with the surrounding Palestinian population to a minimum.

Collaborators rarely leave home without at least a pistol and some of them have semi-automatic rifles.

Israel has several times pressed the PLO to pardon collaborators but the PLO has so far refused. Israeli reports on Monday said collaborators in a village in Gaza had also been given Israeli identity cards and can move inside Israel.

The two main Palestinian factions, Fatah and Hamas, last week announced a month's moratorium on the killing of collaborators. But such julls are short-lived and dozens of suspected collaborators are tortured and killed every year.

### Irish defence minister visits Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Irish Defence Minister David Andrews met in Tehran Monday with Iran's top leaders and called for closer cooperation between Ireland and the Islamic Republic. The Islamic Republic News Agency, IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said that a meeting with President Hashemi Rafsanjani, Mr. Andrews proposed that a letter of understanding be signed between Iran and Ireland to promote ties. Mr. Andrews told Iran's parliament speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, that Iran could dispatch students to Ireland to take advantage of his country's technological expertise. IRNA reported. Mr. Nateq-Nouri, in turn, said Iran was ready to exchange expertise in forestry, fishing, as well as jetty and ship building. In a meeting with Mr. Andrews, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said there were ample grounds for cooperation between the two countries, said IRNA.

### Sudan publisher ousted from Assembly

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's parliament adopted a resolution Monday urging dismissal of Mahjoub Orwa, editor and publisher of a banned newspaper, as a member of the appointed parliament. The move followed state television's showing Saturday of an interrogation of Mr. Orwa by men offscreen over his contacts with a foreign government. Members of the Transitional National Council sent a recommendation for Mr. Orwa's dismissal to military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who appointed the 300 members of the parliament, the official Sudan News Agency reported. Mr. Orwa, whose Al Sudani International was Sudan's only independent daily, is being questioned about "communicating with foreign agencies to disrupt stability and peace in Sudan," Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported. Mr. Orwa, who appeared shaky and confused on television, admitted to possession of messages exchanged with officials in Saudi Arabia on his efforts to press freedom law in Sudan. Mr. Orwa's newspaper was closed three weeks ago after it carried articles critical of the Bashir government and its Islamic orientation and calling for the separation of southern Sudan. The Sudanese South has been involved in a 10-year civil war with the government. General Bashir signed the closure of Mr. Orwa's newspaper. Before Gen. Bashir seized power in a June 1989 bloodless coup, Sudan had a relatively free press.

### Moroccans vote in replay elections

RABAT (AFP) — About 70,000 voters in Morocco were set to vote Tuesday in a partial replay of last year's legislative and local elections. The vote concerns 14 parliamentary and 209 local council seats where in all but one case the outcome of elections held last June and September was invalidated on the grounds of irregularities. The single exception is a by-election to replace a deputy who died. A total of 86 candidates are going after the 14 parliamentary seats though the election will not affect the overwhelming majority of the right and centre-right in the 333-seat assembly.

### Chadians, Libyans set pullout timetable

NDJAMENA (AFP) — Chadian and Libyan military officers have set a timetable for Libyan withdrawal from the disputed Aouzou Strip in northernmost Chad by May 30, the president's office said here Monday. Dates for a pullout from five localities were worked out on Aouzou township on Sunday by the two sides, with U.N. observers in attendance, the government said. Libya occupied the semi-desert territory in 1972, and the two countries fought a number of wars over it. Both sides are carrying out mine-clearing operations while Libya removes its military garrison and civilian administrative staff. The strip is believed to contain significant deposits of uranium and manganese. Libya is leaving following a ruling by the International Court of Justice at the Hague in February confirming Chadian sovereignty.

## Kuwaitis urged to study Saudi security links

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti member of parliament (MP) said on Monday the emir should consider forging common foreign, defence and oil policies with neighbour Saudi Arabia.

"Let's talk about unity in specific fields, in oil policy, in defence — one army, or at least one army leadership — and in foreign policy," Islamist MP Mubarak Al Duwailah said in an interview with Reuters.

"In this case we should gain because we should be part of a big country," the opposition politician said. "Our friends are the same as the Saudis' friends. Their friends are our friends."

Kuwaitis nervous about former occupier Iraq sometimes privately discuss strengthening links with large neighbour Saudi Arabia, their chief ally during Baghdad's 1990-91 occupation, as a possible security option. Few mention the possibility publicly.

Mr. Duwailah said he was not suggesting political union, an idea that would be as contentious in the Gulf oil-exporting emirate of 1.5 million people as in any other country.

But he said increased coordination and cooperation in the three policy fields in a confederal system would help Kuwait survive in a region that was likely to continue to be

unstable.

"Confederation does not mean unity," he said.

"Problems (in the region) will keep going. In this situation it is difficult for small states to exist, and we must do something for our future."

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a 12-year-old economic and military alliance of six-thinly-populated but economically important states.

But the GCC, which also includes the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, has had limited success in resolving regional disputes or border rows between its members or in building a common defence force.

Kuwait Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Suleiman Al Shaheen said in a speech earlier this month a confederation or a "merger" might be a viable option for any two GCC states wanting to boost security.

Mr. Duwailah, a member of the Islamic Constitutional Movement, Kuwait's version of the Muslim Brotherhood, chairs a parliamentary committee that works for the return of hundreds of Kuwaitis believed by Kuwait, despite Iraqi demands, to still be held by Baghdad.

## Detained Iranian writer said to have 'confessed'

NICOSIA (AP) — Ali Akbar Saidi-Sirjani, a dissident Iranian writer arrested last month, was being held on charges ranging from sodomy to links with "anti-revolutionary elements" abroad, an Iranian intelligence ministry official said.

Musavi Nejad, director general for national security at Iran's intelligence ministry, told reporters in Tehran Sunday that Mr. Saidi-Sirjani had been arrested along with an "accomplice," whom he identified as Naezi Kermani.

He said: "Both of them have confessed to their acts."

Mr. Nejad, whose comments were carried Monday by the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), and Mr. Naezi also confessed to drug-related charges and admitted involvement with the Savak, the secret police of the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was ousted by the 1979 Islamic revolution.

He said the two men had received "substantial amounts of foreign funds."

Shortly after his disappearance, an Iranian newspaper reported that Mr. Saidi-Sirjani had been arrested on drug-related charges and for alcohol consumption.

It said Mr. Kermani's whereabouts and the motive for his arrest were likewise unknown.

His March 14 arrest coincided with a mounting campaign against opponents, at a time when the regime is getting increasingly nervous with a string of bomb attacks and assassination attempts against the ruling clerics.

Last Friday, a lone gunman shot and wounded Agha Khorassani, a clergyman in the eastern city of Mashhad.

Mr. Nejad blamed the Iraq-based Mujahideen-e-Khalq, the largest Iranian opposition group, for the attack.

Last month, the New York-based human rights organization Human Rights Watch appealed to Iranian Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Becharati to investigate Mr. Saidi-Sirjani's case.

It said in a letter to Mr. Becharati that Mr. Saidi-Sirjani was picked up from his Tehran home by the anti-vice squad after his wife was shown a blank arrest warrant and given no information about the reason for her husband's arrest.

Human Rights Watch said it understood that Mr. Kermani, a little-known poet and an associate of Mr. Saidi-Sirjani who had met the writer on the day of his disappearance, may also have been detained.

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"We loved her very much and we will miss her." Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, with boys of the Um Al Hussein Orphanage

## A mother to all

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "She was a loving mother. She was so kind, so generous. She always gave us everything we wanted. We will miss her very much," said 12-year-old Samir Abu Zweik, a student at Um Al Hussein Orphanage.

The 150 boys of the orphanage were deeply saddened Tuesday to hear of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf.

The Queen Mother was the honorary president of the Um Al Hussein Orphanage.

which was originally established as the Jordanian Orphanage in 1951. Since taking on her role there in 1965, Queen Zein paid undivided attention to the care, education and happiness of the orphans who range in age from six to 18.

Hamdan Eneizat, a first-grade teacher at the orphanage, was preparing a speech for the commencement exercises to graduate the orphanage's senior class when he was brought the sad news.

"I had just brought the speech to the principal and he

told me of the Queen Mother's passing." Grief-stricken, Mr. Eneizat went back to his class to break the news to the children.

The younger ones, he said, kept asking "where did our mother go?" "To heaven," he would reply.

The older boys wept, said Mr. Eneizat. The teachers spent the afternoon comforting the children, who could not help but remember that Mother's Day was only a short month ago.

"I feel like every other orphan does ... now I'm an orphan again ... I lost my mother again," said Kifah,

boys would dress in their smart uniforms and set off to the Raghadan Palace for a very special gathering with the Queen Mother.

"Every Mother's Day Queen Zein would greet each

and every one of us, give us a gift and then spend time talking to us about how important it is to study so that we would grow up to have a good life," said Kifah, a ninth grader.

"I feel like every other orphan does ... now I'm an orphan again ... I lost my mother again," said Kifah,



Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf

## S. Africans vote in embassy in Amman

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Eight South Africans living in Jordan cast their votes in their country's first democratic elections, one of them turning up at the makeshift polling booth at the country's diplomatic mission operating out of a hotel room in Amman half an hour before voting started to ensure that she could vote.

Four of the voters were embassy staff, headed by the chief of mission, Anthony B. Greenham, who holds the rank of chargé d'affaires. Others included Mrs. Greenham, two tourists and one of three South Africans who are permanent residents in Jordan, Mr. Greenham told the Jordan Times.

Of the three South African tourists, all of them women married to Jordanians and registered with the Jordanian Ministry of Interior, only one turned up to vote.

One of the visitors, a woman, was "so enthusiastic to vote that she called up Monday night to ensure that she could exercise her right to vote," said Mr. Greenham. "She turned up at the mission five minutes to seven so that she could still leave on her trip to Petra," he said.

The day's voting was monitored by an official delegation by the Independent Electoral Commission, Mr. Greenham said.

The ballot box was to be sealed and packed along with unused ballot papers in the monitor's presence and sent by courier to South Africa immediately after voting closed at 7 p.m.

The South African mission is operating out of the Forte Grand Hotel pending the availability of a suitable building, Mr. Greenham said.

Mr. Greenham declined comment when asked how many of the voters here were

black. "We don't do that anymore in South Africa," he said, referring to the end of the apartheid that has come to end in his country.

"If you insist, you could say that a majority of the voters were white," he told the Jordan Times.

It was believed that two of the eight voters were black.

Of the three registered non-diplomatic South Africans living in Jordan, two are of Asian origin — described in South Africa as coloured in the apartheid days. The other, who turned up to vote — is white.

Mr. Greenham said he was not aware of any Jordanian who is a permanent resident in South Africa. "But it is quite possible," he said, noting that South African-Jordanian relations have picked up and trade ties were improving in the wake of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Amman and Pretoria last year. Mr. Greenham deplored the violence that plagued his country. "It is a shame," he said, "they are killing innocent people for no reason."

## Queen Mother's body flown home



## N Yemeni war or partition?

Continued from page 10

autonomy deal, but declined to elaborate.

"The opposition has the full right to know what we are doing, to have a say in it."

In Paris, Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and PLO negotiator Ahmad Qourie met for nearly three hours early on Tuesday to try to bridge the gap on future economic ties between self-governing Palestinian areas and the PLO in Cairo.

Mr. Gordin said on Monday

## Serbs continue withdrawal

Continued from page 10

and in Bosnia respectively, gave a run-down of the Gorazde situation to NATO's military committee comprising chief of staff.

"It looks promising at the moment but it's a fluid situation," the German chief of staff, Gen. Klaus Naumann, said after the meeting.

UNPROFOR spokesman Williams underlined that the deadline was "very, very firm."

In London, diplomats from a newly-formed "contact group" concluded their first meeting promising to travel to Bosnia "shortly" to meet with the warring factions, the Foreign Office said.

"They agreed the priority was to try to restore momentum to the peace process," said a spokesman. "They will explore urgently the prospects for a cessation of hostilities and engaging the parties in negotiations about a settlement."

The spokesman said the

seven-member contact group would conduct its work "within the framework given by the European Union and the United Nations" and would travel "shortly" to Bosnia, but did not elaborate.

The contact group includes three delegates representing the United Nations and the European Union and two each from the United States and Russia.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and British counterpart Douglas Hurd announced the creation of the contact group here Monday after a day of meetings they had with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé and Russian special envoy Vitaly Churkin.

Serbs have won control of large pieces of the 200-square-kilometre enclave, a U.N.-declared "safe area" that is home to about 65,000 residents and refugees.

The Bosnian Serb military says its forces captured 170 square kilometres.

body of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who passed away in a hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland (Petra photo)

## 253 killed in plane crash

Continued from page 10

8:18 p.m. (1118 GMT), officials said.

"When I got to the plane, it looked so bad that I thought everyone must have died," said Takahide Miyagi, a

Nagoya district assistant fire chief.

"But then I heard a woman calling in pain for help and I called for a stretcher and we rescued her," he said.

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### Loss for the nation

**THE PASSING** of Her Majesty Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, yesterday has been and will continue to be deeply mourned by all Jordanians. Not only was she the mother of our leader His Majesty King Hussein but also a Hashemite who made a lasting contribution towards shaping the destiny of the country throughout the past five decades. Right from the start when the Late King Abdullah was assassinated in 1951 at a very critical period in the life of the Kingdom, the late Queen helped steer the country through the difficult transitional period between the reign of King Abdullah, the founder of the Kingdom, and that of King Hussein. Throughout that period and beyond, Her Majesty's unflinching support and wise counsel to the young monarch was critical to the success of the march and to the stability and well-being of the country as a whole. The history of Jordan will accord the Queen Mother a special place in its annals, not only because she gave birth to a born leader and a beloved king, but also because she was in her own right a Hashemite lady who made sacrifice in silence and lived to be an example for others. For all those who were privileged enough to know her well, she exemplified majesty in every sense of the word in dealing with issues and people. There was always time in the late Queen's life for charity, the needy and the handicapped, especially to the orphaned children of Jordan. There were countless occasions when the Queen Mother sponsored activities in order to support those among us who needed help even when her health was failing. Her efforts in this regard will not be easily forgotten.

**Jordan** today is even more united behind His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and the entire Royal Family in their bereavement and time of sorrow. There is in every Jordanian home a sense of loss and sadness that they deeply share with their leader, the ever compassionate father of this nation.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**JORDANIAN DAILIES** commented Tuesday on the U.S. acceptance of Jordan's proposal to replace the sea inspection of Aqaba-bound shipping with a new land-based system to verify the enforcement of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq. Al Ra'i daily said that the U.S. positive response to Jordan's proposals come in the wake of a firm Jordanian position as Jordan repeatedly asserted its compliance with the U.N. Security Council resolutions. The paper pointed out that the sea-inspection of Aqaba-bound shipping is futile since the passages to Iraq are numerous and they are not subject to inspection unless this siege (of Aqaba) has other objectives that are related to the Jordanian position on the peace process. The paper said the U.S. approval of the Jordanian proposals will eliminate a clear contradiction between the objectives of the peace process and the imposition of unjustified sanctions on Jordan.

**SAWAT AL SHAAB** describes U.S. response to Jordan's proposal as a positive development in the U.S. position on the siege of Aqaba. Noting that the development in the U.S. position can be envisaged as a U.S. desire to resume U.S. role in the peace process, the paper said if U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher — during his Middle Eastern tour — enough effort to persuade Israel to comply with the principle of withdrawal from all the occupied territories, then the peace process will make reasonable and acceptable proposals. Otherwise, the paper said, Israel and the U.S. administration will be responsible for any failure in the peace process.

**AL DUSTOUR** daily welcomed the U.S. positive response to Jordan's proposal as righting a wrong and hoped for an immediate realisation at the U.S. promises. Attributing the change in U.S. position to the courageous stance His Majesty King Hussein adopted by insisting on lifting the Aqaba siege prior to any effective Jordanian participation in the peace negotiations, the paper said the termination of sea piracy against Jordan represents an end to plans to distort Jordan's image.

## NATO, U.N. face questions over Gorazde mission

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuter

**BRUSSELS** — For the second time in two days, Bosnian Serbs have openly defied the terms of a NATO ultimatum over Gorazde — although the slaughter in the Bosnian enclave has stopped and U.N. forces are now deployed there.

The question is whether the United Nations and NATO have therefore succeeded in their relief mission, or damaged their own credibility even further by failing to launch promised air strikes against Serb forces.

Paradoxically, the answer may be that both are true.

NATO and U.N. officials say the most important thing was to stop the onslaught on Gorazde, which has claimed hundreds of lives in recent days despite the fact that it is one of six mainly Muslim U.N.-designated "safe areas" in Bosnia.

With U.N. troops in the town, evacuation of the wounded can begin and aid can flow.

"We threatened air strikes around Gorazde to achieve a clear aim — an end to the killing — and that's all that matters," said one alliance source, who asked not to be identified.

"We never wanted just to bomb the Serbs to make ourselves feel better. We have achieved our aim."

But the fact remains that the Western allies, already under fire for failing to take a tougher line in the two-year war, made threats to use force and then did not deliver.

"A piecemeal approach doesn't do the job, half-

M. KAHIL



heartedness doesn't pay off." NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said on Saturday after the alliance had decided new measures to protect Gorazde and other "safe areas" in Bosnia.

"You have to use more decisive means and we must not hesitate to use them."

NATO asked the United Nations for permission to strike Serb forces around Gorazde on Saturday, since they had ignored alliance demands to stop their attacks immediately.

The United Nations refused, angering Woerner and prompting him to call the special U.N. representative in Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, to try to convince him to give the green light.

Again, more was at stake than just NATO's pride and the fact that the shelling was killing more people in Gorazde.

Akashi was convinced by Serb pledges to withdraw from the town by a NATO deadline of 0001 GMT on Sunday and wanted to give

them the chance to do so. Serb forces did not complete the withdrawal in time but both the United Nations and NATO, closing ranks, said there was no immediate need for air strikes.

Something similar happened with the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, where NATO issued a 10-day ultimatum for the Serbs to withdraw heavy weapons from around the city or hand them over to U.N. forces in February.

The Serbs did not comply in time, although most of the

weapons were withdrawn or handed over. There were no air strikes, even though more heavy weapons were then discovered in the Sarajevo exclusion zone.

The point was that shelling of the city had ended.

NATO officials were anxious on Sunday to play down differences between the alliance and the United Nations over Gorazde. But it is not the first time the two organisations, large bureaucracies with sometimes con-

flicting agendas, have had problems working together in the post-cold war era.

When the United Nations passed a resolution on protecting "safe areas" last June, it gave the authority to order strikes not to NATO, but to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

He finally agreed to delegate that authority to Akashi but only when it emerged to NATO's horror, that it would take several hours during training missions for states to get approval from Boutros-Ghali at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Another part of the problem is that the alliance can act only with the approval of the United Nations. In other words, NATO can issue a ultimatum or set deadlines but cannot — without subsequent U.N. approval — follow through on them.

"In our cooperation with the United Nations, we have broken the golden military rule that you always have one single chain of command," said one official. "It's bound to cause problems."

These factors chip away at the credibility of any threats that are made, perhaps allowing the Serbs to believe that they do not need to meet strict NATO deadlines or demands.

"We have to see how far the Serbs will push things but there is the danger that they will test us too far," said another alliance official.

NATO and the United Nations do not have long-term

war. The alliance has told the Serbs that they must now withdraw all heavy weapons at least 20 km from Gorazde by 0001 GMT on Wednesday.

### Today's balance of power makes rivals out of allies

By William Pfaff

**PARIS** — "I am not responsible for geography," Stalin told the Finnish government in 1938 as the demanded political concessions.

Geography has until our day been the fundamental factor in foreign policy. Dynastic conflict, disputed territorial claims, rivalry over resources, claims on ethnic minorities living across disputed frontiers, the straightforward desire for territorial aggrandisement — these have been the main nonideological causes of war.

Even imperial expansion was a form of territorial rivalry. Within Europe itself, national policy was driven by Hapsburg and Bourbon territorial claims, Napoleonic expansionism, Prussia's ambitions to dominate the other German realms and compete with Austria, its claims on Denmark, its seizure of Alsace and Lorraine in the Franco-Prussian war, Republican France's subsequent obsession with recovering those provinces, the Austro-German-Russian rivalry for influence over the territories breaking away from the Ottoman Empire and in revolt against Austro-Hungary's own authority...

American policy in the 19th century was motivated by the idea of Manifest Destiny on the North American continent, and, in the case of the war with Spain, the idea of Pacific

empire.

Today power and influence no longer are linked to geography. The fact that Serbs and Croats are fighting to expand their national territories is generally taken by the rest of us as another proof that they are captives of ideas from the past. Now national power rests mainly on industry and finance, and on cultural influence.

During the period when the military reach of nations was limited, and the great powers occupied a relatively small part of the global, policies of power balance made sense. Victory in war, or successful exploitation of the threat of war, required alliances that shifted the calculations of military and naval power. But what exactly does balance of power mean today?

If conflict is economic, what conflict is there in alliance with one potential rival against another? How does alliance, "balance," serve competitive economic interests?

The United States, Japan and the European Union are political and military allies, but they also are supposed to be economic rivals. They manufacture competitive goods and attempt to sell them in the same markets. The idea of economic alliance seems to make sense only as trading zones with barriers against competition. Are Mexico, Canada and the United States in an alliance directed against the stability of Albania, Macedonia and Greece and indirectly

threatening West European power?

But the United States, Europe and Japan are not military rivals, and they are today's crucial powers. This means that military power does not have the significance it had before 1989, in this respect the United States, "the only superpower," is not as powerful as it was when Russia still was a global power and national power was generally measured in military terms. Military power does not generate employment and prosperity, and that it today's competition.

Effective world power is economic and cultural. It lies in the success and good order of a nation. The nation that can successfully combine economic success and prosperity with social justice will exercise the greatest long-term influence.

In that competition America's power is compromised by the international perception that, in significant respects, it is an unjust society, distinguished by violence, social disorder and decline. European influence is limited by its recent incapacity to create jobs and prosperity. Russia still has enormous power in raw military terms but has drastically lost influence because of its economic and political disorder. These are the new factors of power and weakness in world affairs.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

### British neo-Fascists confident of breakthrough

By Robert Woodward  
Reuter

**LONDON** — To nervous opponents, the neo-Fascist British National Party's bid for control of a London council poses the most serious threat to racial peace in the capital for 60 years.

Racially-motivated attacks in London's East End, an ethnically mixed and white working class district, have increased 300 per cent since the BNP won a council seat on the Isle of Dogs at a by-election last September.

It was only the fifth such

success by an extreme right-wing party in Britain.

"Our definition of racism is that we want a council and a government that looks after British people. And by British we mean white," says BNP spokesman Mike Newland.

"We tell people who want to go round attacking black people because they resent them in this country 'Don't break the law — join with us in legitimate political activity.' That's a perfectly proper thing for us to do."

Since the BNP set up its

headquarters in a bookshop in nearby south London about three years ago, there has been a sharp increase in racial attacks in areas of the capital with significant black and Asian populations.

"There is a growing awareness of the split between the three main parties and ordinary people. They (parties) simply don't represent

them any more — they take no notice of what people in this country want," Newland told Reuters.

"We are trying to take over from Labour as the party of ordinary people," he added. The conservatives, in government nationally, have only a small following in East London.

The BNP has tried to shake off its popular image of shaven-headed yobs roaming the backstreets attacking blacks, and put itself forward as a serious political force.

"In the past the only way we could get publicity was by doing things like marches which then attracted violence... then of course we were associated with violence," Newland said.

"We haven't given credibility to beating people up on the street, we've never encouraged people to do that, we've never organised it," he said. "But we've given a greater degree of respectability to right-wing political activity."

Anti-racist campaigners say BNP proposals to repatriate immigrants and replace race relations legislation has legitimised racist violence. They also blame increased tension on local Liberal Democrat and Labour figures playing the "race card".

### Ozawa emerges victor in Japan feud

By Eugene Moosa  
Reuter

to pull his party out of the alliance.

To Mr. Ozawa's satisfaction, however, he agreed to back Mr. Hata's premiership and the national budget his party helped to draft.

The daily Sankei Shimbun said the policy platform was approved by coalition parties on Friday after days of break-up threats was drawn in secret by Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Watanabe on the assumption that the Left Socialist would be evicted.

In the end the dithering Mr. Watanabe failed to meet Mr. Ozawa's demands to had a massive LDP defection, although his earlier statement to leave pried loose another 13 LDP rebels.

This meant the coalition still depended for its survival on the Socialists, with their 74 seats in the 511-member lower house. After flinging with walking out, the party, which spent 45 years in unbroken opposition between 1948 and 1993, decided it preferred to stay in government for now.

The socialists are just being made to dance to Mr. Ozawa's tune," said commentator Mizuho Fukushima. "They will eventually lose their identity and will be thrown out like garbage."

The LDP, demoralised since losing its 38-year grip on power last year, is in a state of decline, torn between old-style hardliners and reformists led by ex-premier Toshiki Kaifu.

While things may be taking longer than Mr. Ozawa would have hoped, the events of the past two weeks have done nothing to reverse the wholesale political realignment he has long advocated and now believes is unstoppable.

"We're working toward creating a good political system," he said on Friday. "We're just in the process now."

Mr. Ozawa was once the LDP's crown prince, groomed to take over the mantle of kingmaker won by master-fundraiser Shin Kanemaru. But after Mr. Kanemaru was felled by a scandal over his colossal influence-peddling exploits, Mr. Ozawa defected with a group of colleagues in 1993, bringing down the LDP government.

Then, with fellow conspirator Mr. Hata, Ozawa set up the Shinseito (Renewal Party), which was to be instrumental in installing Mr. Hosokawa's coalition last August.

True to style, the secretive Mr. Ozawa persuaded Mr. Hata to become party head and he also refused a cabinet position.

"I'm not going to take a post," Mr. Ozawa reiterated.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 18 more Palestinians to return home

AMMAN (AP) — Eighteen more Palestinian deportees are scheduled to cross into the West Bank and Gaza Strip Wednesday as a result of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) agreements, a PLO official said Tuesday. Omar Khatib, deputy chief of the PLO mission here, said 11 of the latest batch will cross the King Hussein Bridge to the West Bank. The rest will use the Rafah crossing from Egypt to Gaza. Mr. Khatib said he had received a list of 18 Palestinians from PLO negotiators in Cairo. He said that earlier Israel had agreed to only eight.

### Yemen, S. Arabia postpone new border talks

SANA (R) — A new round of talks between Yemen and Saudi Arabia to settle a long-standing dispute over a possible oil-rich border area has been postponed, Yemeni officials said on Tuesday. The talks between experts from both countries were due to start in Riyadh on Monday. One official source said Yemen asked for more time to study a message sent last week by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to its President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The message was conveyed by Saudi Education Minister Abdul Aziz Al Abdullah Al Khawaja, who heads the Saudi delegation to the border talks. Seven rounds of border talks have been held so far, but the source said little progress has been made.

### Iran women to work in the legal system

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament has passed a draft law allowing women to become legal advisors for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution, parliamentary sources said Tuesday. The vote infuriated hardline deputies. One said: "Women are weak, and could change their judges if elected." Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri rejected the argument during the debate on Sunday, saying Islam had never prevented women from securing legal advisors to the courts.

### UAE seized hundreds of illegal immigrants

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Coast guards in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have seized nearly 300 illegal immigrants from Asia in separate raids on boats off the eastern coast, a spokesman said Tuesday. He said 36 were captured as they tried to land near the port of Fujairah early Tuesday and 38 were seized in the same area on Monday. The nearly 300 infiltrators so far this month have included 70 Iranians, 61 Pakistanis, 58 Indians, 57 Bangladeshis and the rest were Afghans, the coast guard spokesman told AFP by telephone from Fujairah on the Gulf of Oman.

### Sudanese diplomat in Somali captivity

NAIROBI (AFP) — Efforts to secure the release of the Sudanese ambassador kidnapped by Somali gunmen in Mogadishu last week have failed as factional fighting kept officials from meeting the abductors, officials said Tuesday. Sudanese officials who went to the Somali capital last week to try to negotiate with the kidnappers were unable to meet the abductors because factional fighting prevented them from moving around the city, a spokesman for the Sudanese embassy here said. The ambassador, Abdul Bagi Mohammad Hassan, was abducted on Tuesday last week by four Somalis who said they were from the Hawadle clan. They demanded a ransom of \$100,000.

### Former editor of Cyprus Mail dies

NICOSIA (AP) — Ken Mackenzie, former editor of the Cyprus Mail, has died. He was 73. The English-language newspaper Tuesday reported that police found Mackenzie, a Scot, dead in his Nicosia apartment on Sunday. The cause of death was not given. Coronor Marios Matsakis was quoted as saying Mackenzie had been dead for three to five days, not foul play was suspected. Mackenzie was editor of the Mail in the late 1950s. He later worked for the Economist newspaper in London and Turkey, where he also wrote for the Observer, before retiring in Cyprus.

### Syria, Russia discuss military ties

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syrian and Russian officials on Tuesday held their second day of talks reportedly dealing with military and economic cooperation between the two countries. The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said the talks focused on the "friendship and cooperation between the Syrian and Russian armies and ways of boosting them." It did not elaborate. Sources said the two sides were expected to seek new contracts for spare parts that would be supplied Syria received from the former Soviet Union. Earlier, SANA reported that Syria's ministers of economy, finance and planning had lengthy talks with Russians to discuss "ways of boosting trade, economic and technical relations." After the first round of talks Monday, Syrian officials said the two sides also would discuss rescheduling Syria's debts.

### Saddam birthday festivities start

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is preparing an elaborate programme of events to mark President Saddam Hussein's 57th birthday.

Baghdad's official press on Tuesday unveiled plans for a score of events leading to the April 28 birthday celebration in Tikrit, President Saddam's home town, from street parties to parades, art fests, exhibitions and music concerts. Streets in Baghdad and Tikrit, 170 kilometres north of the capital, are festooned with ribbons and colourful portraits of President Saddam.

### Son of Mexican magnate kidnapped

MEXICO CITY (R) — The son of a supermarket magnate was kidnapped Monday, the second abduction of a wealthy Mexican in six weeks. Separately, the abductors who seized the chairman of Mexico's biggest banking group on March 14 repeated their threat to kill him unless the ransom — which they said was less than \$100 million — was paid. The threat was made in a letter to Reuters. It was unclear whether the two kidnappings were related. In what seemed to be an effort to calm local businessmen and international investors worried about the rising violence, President Carlos Salinas De Gortari Monday created a new agency to coordinate national public security.

### Rescuers find \$650,000 after Russian crash

MOSCOW (R) — Almost \$650,000 in cash has been recovered from the site of last month's Airbus A-310 crash and handed over to a government commission in Siberia, ITAR-TASS news agency said Tuesday. The agency quoted an official from the Siberian Kemerovo region as saying cash collected by rescue teams working on the wreckage comprised \$375,000 and 500 million roubles (\$280,000). All 75 people on board the scheduled Aeroflot flight from Moscow to Hong Kong died when the European-built airliner crashed near the town of Mezhdurechensk. A Russian government commission investigating the accident has said a member of the cockpit crew was showing his children how to pilot the plane minutes before it went down, but the cause of the crash has not yet been officially determined.

### Kazakhstan, China settle border dispute

ALMATY (AFP) — President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Chinese Premier Li Peng signed here Tuesday a landmark treaty ending a longstanding border dispute and giving a new impetus to bilateral relations. "This treaty will give a strong push to further development of friendly relations between our countries," the Chinese premier said here following the signing of the border treaty. "We have just witnessed an historic act," said Mr. Nazarbayev of the treaty defining the two entire 1,700-kilometres (1,062-mile) border between the two countries.

## Amman hosts conference on museums and heritage

### Jordan underlines keen interest in preserving human culture

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education Saeed Tal Tuesday formally opened a four-day conference entitled "Encounter Professionals of Arab Countries' Museums, Civilisation and Development" at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman in the presence of President of Mali Alpha Omar Conary and other dignitaries.

In his brief address, Dr. Tal welcomed the Mali president and underlined Jordan's deep keenness in preserving human culture and promoting the work and the role of museums.

Tourism Minister Mohammad Adwan addressed the opening ceremony dwelling on the importance of museums and their role in culture.

Mounir Bouchnaki, representative of the director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) addressed the session as did Mr. Saro Ghose, president of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), and Dr. Sufwan Tal, director general of the department of antiquities.

Jordan is an open museum dotted with numerous archaeological sites that relate the tale of ancient civilisations and the history of humanity and common heritage, the minister said.

The role of museums in highlighting and documenting the human perpetuity among peoples and civilisations over the epochs of history constitute a scientific and cultural link where the care for museum forms a common international responsibility and a source of great care to all countries, Dr. Adwan added.

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Dr. Ghose told the meeting that the conference was seeking to take stock of the state of the art in Arab museums and mobilise the cumulative pool of knowledge from the world of museums.

He said that museums serve as custodians of the human heritage and therefore have the responsibility of linking the future of man with his heritage of the past.

Dr. Conary addressed the audience by expressing condolences to the royal family and the Jordanian people on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Zein.

The president focused attention on the need to promote the work of museums and reiterated his country's endeavours in this respect.

Dr. Conary, who once served as ICOM president, paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for his attention to promote world culture.

The meeting, organised in



Prime Minister Abdal Salam Majali on Tuesday holds talks with Mali President Alfa Omar Conary, who arrived here to attend a conference on museums (Petra photo)

Dr. Tal.

More than 80 professionals from 20 Arab and foreign countries are taking part in the meeting. The delegation will be taken on tours to archaeological sites in the country.

Ekeus has no schedule for ending sanctions on Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The United Nations needs more time to implement its monitoring of Iraq's weapons programme before it will lift its trade embargo, a U.N. envoy said on Tuesday at the end of a visit to Baghdad.

The reports suggested that an across-the-board raise of JD 22 for all categories of government servants and public sector employees was being considered as the proposed raise.

While denying the report, Mr. Gammoh, the finance minister, affirmed that month that the government was considering an efficiency-oriented incentive programme for civil servants.

"We have been studying such a plan for some time now," Mr. Gammoh said. "This would only involve those civil servants who prove their efficiency and productivity."

Mr. Gammoh declined to give details of the efficiency-oriented pay raises, pointing out that the committee had not completed its work.

Other officials said the orientation was towards civil servants who had proven records of efficiency as well as those who work in rural areas where the relative luxuries and better living conditions are lacking.

There was no indication on Tuesday whether the government was forced to abandon this scheme also as a result of the cut in tax revenues.

## Israel refloods Hula

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel began reflooding the northern Hula Valley on Monday, four decades after it hailed the draining of the wetlands as a triumph of man over nature.

The Jordan River course, straightened to speed its flow through the valley in the 1950s, will return to the meandering stream that watered the most northern papyrus swamp in the Middle East.

Residents, now unable to earn a living from increasingly waterlogged land, will run lucrative tourist facilities. Hotels will be banned to protect the environment.

When the drainage project started in 1951, a few years after DDT had eradicated the malaria that once ravaged the most fertile in Israel. But soil under the former swamp further north — much larger than the lake — did not meet enthusiastic predictions.

At the same time, changes in the course of the Jordan River damaged the quality of water entering the Sea of Galilee, threatening the source of one third of Israel's fresh water.

U.N. officials have said the destruction of Iraq's prohibited weapons is almost complete but they are seeking further documentation on the manufacture and disposal of chemical weapons.

Mr. Ekeus said the U.N. needed more time and action to put its arms monitoring and verification programme into action.

"We are close to end the chapter, but it is not completely closed," he said.

Mr. Ekeus said he was phasing out Iraq inspections and focusing on how to ensure that Baghdad would not reacquire weapons banned under the Gulf war ceasefire terms.

"Fundamentally we are leaving the stage of identifying the past programme (and are) putting monitoring and verification in place," the envoy said.

Mr. Ekeus expressed "appreciation for the positive response and support given to our inspection team by the Iraqi authorities," U.N. spokesman Tim Treven said.

Baghdad was committed to cooperating with UNSCOM in charge of stripping post-war Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. Ekeus said.

Mr. Treven said the U.N. SCOM chief read out a joint U.N.-Iraqi statement after a new round of talks with Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf.

"The progress made is considerable" since March, when Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz travelled to New York to urge the United Nations to lift its embargo on his country, the statement said.

But UNSCOM had yet to reach the stage when it could report to the U.N. Security Council that Iraq had complied with its commitments under paragraph 22 of the Resolution 687.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Mr. Aziz on Monday, had held detailed talks since Sunday on setting up a timetable for the monitoring programme as well as for the implementation of paragraph 22.

The paragraph states that the oil embargo will be lifted once Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations on disarmament.

Mr. Ekeus has said a probationary period would be necessary to see how well the long-term monitoring worked before UNSCOM could state that Baghdad had complied with U.N. demands.

Offers for this tender will be opened at 12 o'clock noon Amman time, in Amman, on August 1, 1994. The tender should be valid for 150 days from date of opening the tenders.

## JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT BETWEEN JORDAN AND EGYPT

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR ISSUE OF TENDER NO. JE 06/90 FOR AQABA 400/132 KV SUBSTATION AND CABLE TERMINAL STATION AT AQABA SHORE IN JORDAN

The Jordan Electricity Authority declares the reissue of Tender No. JE06/90 for Aqaba 400/132KV Substation and Cable Terminal Station at the Aqaba shore in Jordan which includes:

The engineering, design, CIF delivery, installing, testing and commissioning of 400KV SF6 metalclad switchgear (Option 1) or conventional switchgear (option 2) and ancillary equipment complete with civil works and fire fighting system for transformers and shunt reactors for Aqaba 400/132 KV Substation.

'High percentage of civil servants live near, or sometimes, below poverty line'

## House speaker sees highest importance in restructuring middle class

By Bashir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordanian Times

AMMAN — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Tamer Al Masri told a group of businessmen Monday night that utmost importance should be given in the coming period to restructuring the middle class and making the larger sector of the Jordanian society by reducing the sectors of the poor and the wealthy.

2. Ensuring that legislations be stable and the policies be adequate and coherent with each other;

3. Keeping up with economic, financial and social developments in the Jordanian society and the world at large.

### Economic identity

However, Mr. Masri cautioned, the process of formulating economic legislations cannot by any means keep pace with the need of economic and social development and growth, unless it has a reference specifying the identity of economic system sought and aimed at.

"There have been much talk about Jordan's economic system, but the main features of what have been talked are not clear. We are still far from any comprehensive and complementary programme that suits our current stage," he said.

"An economic system which, since the early 70s, was moving to depend on the public sector, and gradually moving away from the private sector, cannot reverse its course except through organised, programmed and well-studied measures" Mr. Masri said.

Noting that the middle class formed a vital sector of the Jordanian society during the 70s and 80s and that people at that time were to a great extent equal in their incomes, behaviour and living styles. Mr. Masri warned that the situation was changing every day.

"The middle class retreated mainly in 1989 and is still being eroded day by day to the extent that the poor class has become the larger and bigger sector of the Jordanian society," he emphasised.

As such, he pointed out, both the legislative and executive authorities should focus on this basic problem and realise that legislation and policies in the economic sphere and in the social sphere are two sides of a coin and should not neglect one at the expense of the other.

"Legislation and policies should be clear and comprehensive," he said.

Mr. Masri outlined the following points which a legislator should consider when formulating law and writing policies:

1. Eliminating, at least reducing the imbalances in the economy and the society.

2. Ensuring that legislations be stable and the policies be adequate and coherent with each other;

3. Keeping up with economic, financial and social developments in the Jordanian society and the world at large.

4. Ensuring that the backbone of the Jordanian economy. This entails that the executive authority start laying down legislations to control and organise economic activity without any direct interference in it.

5. As an example, he pointed out, it is illegal to privatise the Jordanian Electric Authority or the Telecommunications Corporation and some public hospitals while the government still owns large equity in some hotels, newspapers and other companies.

6. He said that it was also illegal to privatise such public sector institutions before laying down the necessary legislation and drawing the right criteria which the private sector should follow.

7. "With rising living costs,

there is a high percentage of civil servants living near, or sometimes, below poverty line" he said adding:

8. "And because of the bloated

public sector year after year,

the government finds itself un-

able to improve wages and,

even if salaries were increased,

the raises would not make life

much better for a civil servant

whose living conditions may

even stay the same."

9. As a result, Mr. Masri saw

an imbalance between the pri-

ivate sector awaiting, in vain

for better services from civil

servants, whose productivity

has decreased and bureaucracy

has increased due to a climate

of depression engulfing the

public sector.

10. "This imbalance, which

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cumstances, prevents the gov-

ernment from implementing its

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and quickly," he emphasised.

11. The necessity to deal

very seriously with various

changes that are taking place

whether in scientific and

technical development and in the

emergence of world economic

blocks or in the development of

new and diversified economic

thoughts and tools which,

altogether, tend to confuse the

legislator and the formulator of

economic policy as well as the

executing body.

12. "The government system is

expanding year after year

mainly to ease the pressure of

employment," Mr. Masri said, noting that there was no regard to selecting qualified persons to the right positions.

"This expansion has become a burden on the treasury and on the taxpayer without any justification," he added.

He pointed out that recurrent spending in the budget was increasing every year at the expense of capital expenditure, resulting in fewer or weakened basic services, such as health and education, and in widening social gaps.

Mr. Masri said recurrent spending was eating a large portion of the budget without receiving a direct economic return.

"With rising living costs, there is a high percentage of civil servants living near, or sometimes, below poverty line" he said adding:

"And because of the bloated public sector year after year, the government finds itself unable to improve wages and, even if salaries were increased, the raises would not make life much better for a civil servant whose living conditions may even stay the same."

As a result, Mr. Masri saw an imbalance between the private sector awaiting, in vain for better services from civil servants, whose productivity has decreased and bureaucracy has increased due to a climate of depression engulfing the public sector.

"This imbalance, which grows day after day, negatively affects the economic situation and prospects for investment expansion and, in many circumstances, prevents the government from implementing its policies and projects efficiently and quickly," he emphasised.

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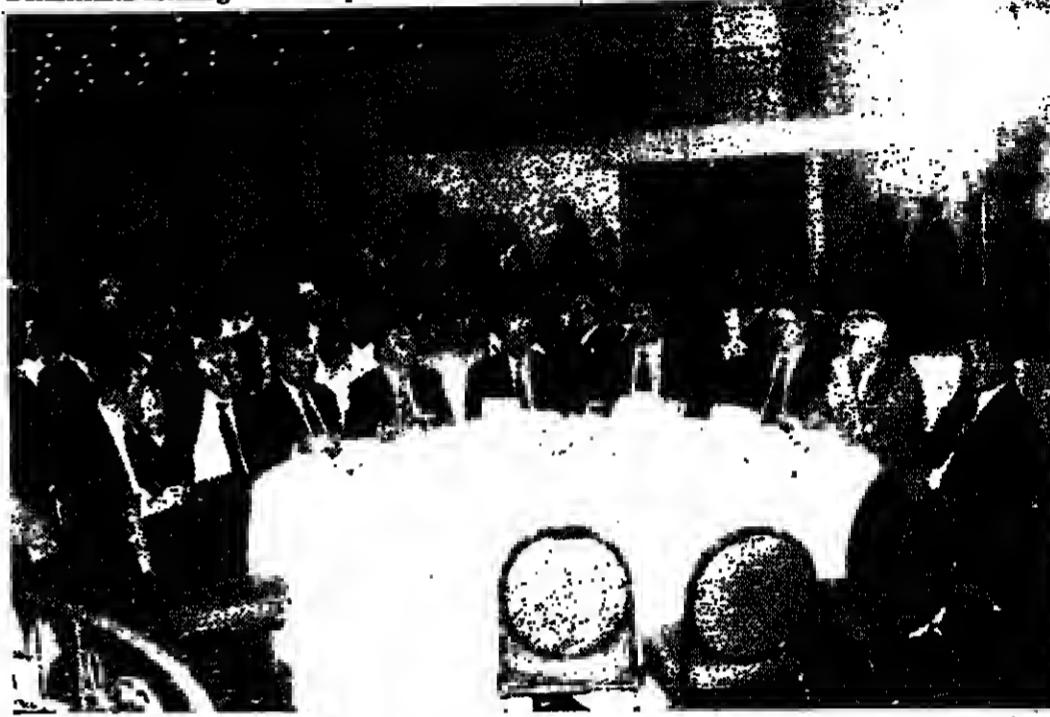
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Businessmen listening to House Speaker Tamer Al Masri



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JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET  
REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
TELEPHONE: 642170 / 655170  
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 26/04/1994

COMPANY'S BANK	TRADED	PREV.	OPENING	CLOSING	PRICE
JORDAN BANK	36,840	104.000	104.000	104.000	104.000
JORDAN BANK	36,855	4.330	4.358	4.358	4.358
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	15,320	1.130	1.130	1.130	1.130
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	3,931	3.138	3.158	3.158	3.158
TELECOM JORDAN	1,272	2.720	2.720	2.720	2.720
JORDAN KINWAT BANK	9,726	2.400	2.400	2.400	2.400
JORDAN GOLF BANK	1,040	4.100	4.100	4.100	4.100
JORDAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	10,862	3.018	3.048	3.070	3.070
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	4,420	4.100	4.100	4.100	4.100
DEFENCE BANK FOR BANKING & INVESTMENT	245	4.950	4.950	4.950	4.950
QUDSI BANK	1,250	2.720	2.720	2.720	2.720
BAIT AL SALAH ANTIQUES INVESTMENT FOR HOLDING	7,525	4.300	4.300	4.300	4.300
BAIT AL SALAH INVESTMENT BANK	7,131	1.418	1.438	1.440	1.440
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	1,100	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100
MIDDLE EAST INSURANCE	67,908	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	4,500	3.140	3.140	3.140	3.140
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	5,829	2.800	2.850	2.850	2.850
THE JORDAN LIFE INSURANCE	2,121	2.121	2.121	2.121	2.121
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	10,882	1.790	2.000	2.030	2.030
JORDAN EXTERIOR HOTELS	6,700	4.300	4.350	4.750	4.750
JORDAN TELEGRAPHIC LINES	1,250	2.120	2.120	2.120	2.120
JORDAN TOURISM & TRAVEL COMPLEX	262	0.710	0.710	0.720	0.720
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	11,799	4.060	4.060	4.100	4.100
PEPSICO ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENT LEASING	4,500	3.000	3.000	3.000	3.000
JOHNSON CONTAINERS & EQUIPMENT	2,500	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100
JOHNSON HOTEL, RESTAURANT & HOTEL	10,308	2.040	2.050	2.040	2.040
JOHNSON HOTEL & CONCORDE HOTELS	6,000	2.100	2.100	2.100	2.100
JOHNSON HOTEL & CONCORDE HOTELS	6,748	21.000	21.000	21.000	21.000
JOHNSON TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	1,967	1.780	1.780	1.780	1.780
JOHNSON PETROLEUM REFINERY	2,000	1.700	1.700	1.700	1.700
JOHNSON PETROLEUM REFINERY	4,002	5.750	5.750	5.750	5.750
JOHNSON PETROLEUM REFINERY	22,000	11.130	11.130	11.130	11.130
JOHNSON PAPER CONVERTING & TRADE	7,749	1.130	1.130	1.140	1.140
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	13,761	4.100	4.210	4.260	4.260
JOHNSON PAPER MANUFACTURING	5,000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
JOHNSON PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	9,366	0.770	0.770	0.770	0.770
JOHNSON PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	529,578	10.150	10.150	10.050	10.050
JOHNSON PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	1,41915	1.4910	1.4910	1.4910	1.4910
JOHNSON PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	1,6798	1.6810	1.6810	1.6810	1.6810
JOHNSON PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	1,4335	1.4360	1.4360	1.4360	1.4360
JOHNSON PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	5,7655	5.7757	5.7757	5.7757	5.7757
JOHNSON PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	103.05	103.11	103.11	103.11	103.11
JOHNSON PLASTIC INDUSTRIES	1,1490	1.1475	1.1475	1.1475	1.1475
GRAND TOTAL	1,355,559				
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	63223				
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	1,30273				

## French firm displays products in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A major French company in information technology is holding an exhibition here for the first time, with hopes that the Jordanian market offers enough scope and room for their wares.

The exhibition by Groupe Bull Middle East, the regional arm of Groupe Bull, was opened by Prime Minister Abdal Salam Majali at the Forte Grand Hotel on Monday. Visitors on Monday were limited to invited guests, but the exhibition was open for the public on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Among the products on display are computers with advanced technology and laser printers, scanners and what Groupe Bull describes as the first-ever personal computer and the development of smart card, which is now replacing magnetic credit cards, phone cards and other usage cards.

In addition, the company will soon announce the first-ever symmetric multiprocessor based on the Power PC technology which it has helped develop in partnership with International Business Machines (IBM), Apple and Motorola, said a Groupe Bull press release.

The company's hardware products range from Zenith Data Systems, which are pro-

duced in the U.S., laptop and desktop computers as well as high-end mainframe computers.

Groupe Bull takes special pride in its ATMs, Mr. Merheje told the Jordan Times.

The exhibition, he said, is intended to show the (company's) commitment to the Middle East in general and Jordan in particular which it views as the potential technological hub of the Arab Levant countries.

Among the activities of Groupe Bull are all fields of information technology. It claims credit for inventing the first-ever personal computer and the development of smart card, which is now replacing magnetic credit cards, phone cards and other usage cards.

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The Bull ATMs are designed to reduce the cost of cash dispensing and installation while complying with international rules and standards, and increasing operational profits.

Unlike the cumbersome big machines found at many banks, the Bull ATM is not bigger than a bedside table and is light enough to be carried by two people.

It could be located almost anywhere, in remote locations, where low turnover does not justify a full-sized ATM, supermarkets, hotel lobbies, shopping malls, airports, bus-pits, petrol stations etc., the company says, adding that one of the first purchasers of the machines was an Omani client.

"This little wonder is the smallest cost-efficient ATM in the world and the nearest thing to customer-minded design the ATM business has ever seen" — that is how the company described the product.

## Tunisia's tourism earnings hit record

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia earned a record \$1.1 billion from tourism in 1993 and is forecasting an increase of about 11 per cent this year, Tourism Minister Mohammad Jegham said on Tuesday.

"This is thanks to Tunisia's stability, security and quietness while there are troubles in other Mediterranean competing countries," he told Reuters in an interview.

He said economic recovery in Europe, Tunisia's main market, a diversification policy and a new breed of private-sector entrepreneurs were factors behind the boom.

Tunisia's hundreds of beach hotels with a total of 150,000 beds, museums containing what is believed to be the world's best collection of mosaics, and souks are swarming with visitors — mainly German and French.

In 1993 there were 3.6 million tourists, 3.3 per cent per cent more than in 1992, although the numbers from neighbouring Libya and Algeria dropped by 16 per cent each because of economic problems in those countries.

"We expect four million tourists this year, of which about 80,000 to 90,000 (Europeans) will be diverted from other competing destinations like Turkey," Mr. Jegham said.

"In 1993 there were 2.2 million European visitors, an increase of about 17 per cent compared to 1992. During the first quarter of 1994 the number of European visitors increased by 30 per cent," he added.

"We have an important place in the German market where we have a very big increase. We are now the third destination for German tourists after Spain and Greece."

China has so far refused to bow to foreign pressure — especially from the United States — to open up its insurance market, but GATT recently, which China hopes to achieve by the end of this year, would leave it no choice.

Tourism revenue, one of the main pillars of Tunisia's economy along with textile and phosphorus exports, totalled \$945 million in 1992 and \$1.13 billion in 1993.

## Kuwait Islamic bank sees more competition

KUWAIT (R) — Success in the growing multibillion dollar Islamic banking market hinges increasingly on technical sophistication, a Kuwaiti banker has said.

"As the industry competes, it will attract more clients by being more sophisticated," said Adnan Al Bahar, chairman of one-year-old Islamic finance firm, The International Investor.

The variety of business conducted by TII in its first year of operation was evidence of growing demand for Islamic investment and corporate financing, he said in an interview.

"Islamic banking is still today a monopoly in most markets," he said. "But Islamic banking grows as the wealth of the middle class grows. And competition, and the passage of time, are making Islamic products more interesting."

"The customers who insist on investing 100 per cent Islamic are already taken care of. Others will invest Islamically if the products are good enough," he pointed out.

Islamic finance institutions such as TII say they conform with the Islamic ban on charging interest by applying a range of asset management techniques that involve specially designed trading, leasing and profit-sharing transactions.

TII is aiming for 50 per cent profit growth in 1994. It made net profit of 1.957 million dinars (\$6.59 million) in 1993.

The company calls itself the world's first non-retail Islamic investment and corporate finance house. It conducts private banking and wholesale investment banking for wealthy individuals and on the corporate finance side taps Islamic funds for business projects in the Middle East and Islamic World.

"Increasingly what will bring in business is competition. As they acquire wealth, people are wanting investment institutions to invest Islamically," Sheikh Al Bahar said.

Banks in Islamic regions in turn sought to attract funds

with high-yielding Islamic products to take a slice of a global market worth tens of billions of dollars, Sheikh Al Bahar said.

Sheikh Al Bahar estimated Islamic finance institutions globally about \$30 billion to \$50 billion in assets under management.

This could rise to \$80 billion to \$100 billion by the end of the century, he said.

He estimated that in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman, the region's Islamic banks could raise their share of total private assets under bank management to around 50 per cent by the year 2000 from 10 to 15 per cent at present.

He added some competition was coming from Western banks which has devised what they called Islamic products.

"Muslim investors are saying 'why invest in traditional markets if I can get the same return from Islamic banking and sleep more comfortably at night,'" Sheikh Al Bahar said.

On the investment side, TII has launched an \$86 million U.S. property fund, a \$23 million currency fund, two short term investment funds in dollars and dollars worth a total \$60 million and a medium term leasing investment fund worth \$40 million.

In corporate finance, TII has arranged aircraft leasing worth 143 million dinars (\$481 million) for state-owned Kuwait Airways Corporation, is an adviser and underwriter for U.S. firm Wing Group on a \$700 million project to rebuild Kuwait's Sbwaib north power station and is raising \$10 million for Britain's Cable and Wireless and a group of Egyptian investors for a mobile telephone company joint venture in Egypt.

It has established a financial services company in Switzerland, opened a London representative office, and launched a property management company in Britain in association with British property consultants DTZ Debenham Thorpe.

## Foreign trade boom provides windfall for China's insurers

BEIJING (AFP) — China's insurance companies are cashing in on the country's foreign trade boom which has sparked a dramatic rise in overseas-related premiums, the China Daily business weekly said Sunday.

The People's Insurance Company of China (PICC), the country's largest underwriter, took in \$732 million in foreign-related premiums last year, a rise of almost 30 per cent, said Sunday.

According to Shi Guoqing, deputy general manager of PICC's international department, China's economic growth is providing the insurance sector with a "golden

opportunity" for rapid expansion.

Of all foreign-related coverage, aviation posted the largest increase last year, with premium revenue soaring 106 per cent from 1992 on the back of rapid expansion in the domestic airline industry.

However, Mr. Shi warned that growth may slow later this year as a result of the unification of China's two-tier exchange rate system and sweeping reforms of the tax and foreign trade systems.

Chinese insurers are also preparing for the end of their virtual monopoly on the domestic market which would come with China's planned

adherence to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) signed earlier this month.

"Many foreign insurance giants have eyed the huge Chinese market for a long time," Mr. Shi said. He added that he would welcome foreign involvement "since it would bring not only competition, but also advanced management and techniques."

China has so far refused to bow to foreign pressure — especially from the United States — to open up its insurance market, but GATT recently, which China hopes to achieve by the end of this year, would leave it no choice.</p

## New Japanese premier faces prospect of weak, minority rule

TOKYO (R) — New Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata faced the unsettling prospect Tuesday of minority rule and possible early elections after the biggest party in the ruling coalition walked out in disgust.

Months of policy battles and a power struggle finally took their toll on the weak eight-month alliance, which only barely mustered the votes to install Mr. Hata as prime minister Monday.

By Tuesday the Socialist Party had quit in protest at what it saw as an attempt by the coalition's conservatives to freeze it out of policy-making.

Without the Socialists, Mr. Hata will have to settle for forming Japan's first minority government since 1948, a development which is likely further to delay legislation and hasten general elections, not normally due until summer 1997.

"We're in for more weak leadership because of what's happened," said Takeshi Sasaki, a Tokyo University politics professor. "It'll be difficult to avoid an early election."

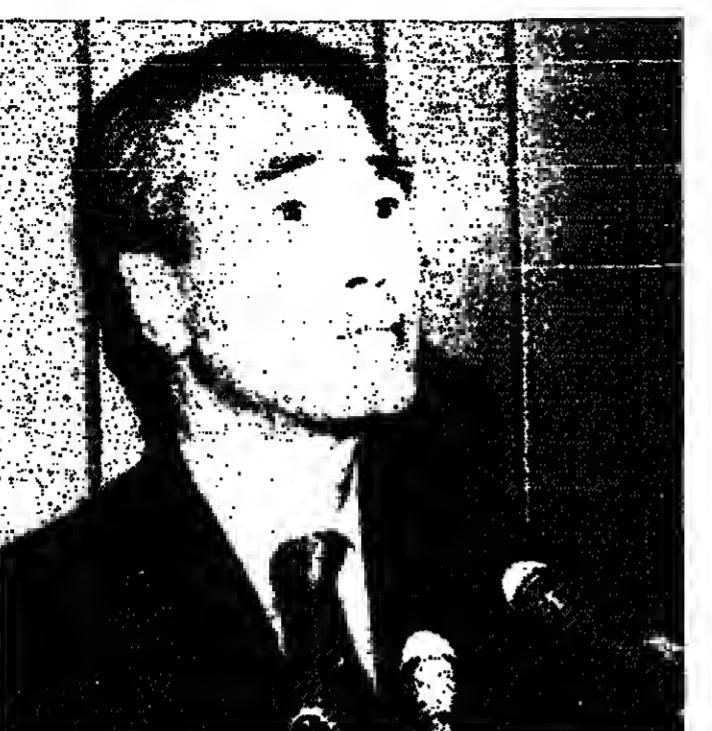
Mr. Hata, who has yet to form a cabinet, decided to make last-ditch attempt to woo back the Socialists by seeking a meeting with their leader, Tomiichi Murayama.

"The main aim of the meeting will be to maintain the coalition's unity," cabinet office spokesman Nobuo Ishihara told reporters. He said nothing had yet been scheduled and a Socialist Party spokesman said it was not certain the meeting would take place.

Hirotaka Akamatsu, former Socialist secretary-general, ruled out the possibility of his party returning to a coalition dominated by Mr. Hata's chief, "backroom" fixer Ichiro Ozawa.

The crisis followed weeks of bitter feuding over coalition policy between Socialists and conservatives.

The warning factions buried



Social Democratic Party (SDP) leader Tomiichi Murayama announces that his party will leave the coalition government following the sudden emergence of a rival bloc, at a press conference at the SDP headquarters (AFP photo)

the hatchet Friday and settled on Mr. Hata for prime minister, only for tensions to flare again Monday just as he began work on forming a cabinet.

The trigger was the sudden announcement by Mr. Ozawa's group of the formation of a coalition parliamentary bloc called Kaishin (Reformation), excluding the Socialists who were not even consulted in advance.

The Socialists' pullout now threatens to prolong a paralysis of government. Apart from the party returning to a coalition dominated by Mr. Hata's chief, "backroom" fixer Ichiro Ozawa.

At the root of the crisis is widespread resentment of Mr. Ozawa and his plans to create a new conservative party to compete against the once-dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), still the biggest

parliamentary group.

The Socialists and some centrist parties want to see the emergence of a true multiparty system, a balance of conservatives, liberals and leftists.

Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Hata both came from the LDP's right-wing. They were protégés of party kingmaker San Kanemaru, who wielded immense power at Japan's backstage political boss.

After he was toppled by a corruption scan, Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Hata led a group of dissidents out of the LDP in 1993 and launched the Shinseito (Renewal Party) now dominating the coalition.

"How can they scheme to create a new party and expect us to stay in the coalition?" said Socialist lawmaker Hideko Ito.

The Socialists hold 74 seats

in the 511-strong lower house. Without them, Mr. Hata has 187 seats compared to the LDP's 206.

LDP chief Yobei Kono raised the possibility of cooperating with the Socialists in parliament, a development that could set the stage for a no-confidence vote against the Hata government.

"What's happened to the Socialists is wrong... I think we'll be able to talk with them," he told reporters.

Barri Kaijeda, a lawmaker who has joined the new bloc, said Mr. Ozawa's aim was to force the break-up of both the Socialists and the LDP, twin pillars of Japan's cold war system.

"We're going to see many things unfold as a result of what's happened," he said. "The Socialists and the LDP are not united internally and they could begin unravelling."

Meanwhile, cabinet office spokesman Ishihara urged Mr. Hata to name his cabinet by Thursday so that government business could proceed smoothly. Japan starts a 10-day holiday from Friday.

Meanwhile, South Korea's defence minister arrived in Japan Tuesday for talks with his Japanese counterpart — but it was not immediately clear who this would be.

Japan's cabinet resigned Monday and hopes of quickly forming a new one were dashed after the Socialists announced they were walking out.

A defence agency spokesman said he did not know who South Korean Minister Rhee Byung-Tea would meet for talks scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

"We can't be sure yet," he said. "If there's a new cabinet by then, he'll meet the new one."

If not, he said, Mr. Rhee would probably meet Kazuo Aichi, the defence chief who resigned Monday.

The Socialists hold 74 seats

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 16 shot, 1 dead, in N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — One man was killed and sixteen men were shot in the legs in what appeared to be a wave of IRA punishment attacks overnight, police said Tuesday. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) claimed responsibility for the death of a man whose body was found in mainly Catholic West Belfast. He had been shot in the head and the IRA accused him of drug trafficking in a call to a local newspaper. Sixteen men aged between 20 and 30 were in hospital with gunshot wounds to their legs typical of IRA "kneecapping" punishments, police said. They said the shootings had all the hallmarks of the IRA's punishment of wayward youths, suspected criminals or informers. The reasons for the attacks were not clear. They follow an unprecedented police crackdown on IRA fund-raising in Britain, Ireland and Northern Ireland last week. Police said they seized documents, stolen property, cash and computers in the raid as well as quantities of drugs linked to fund-raising in the IRA's 25-year campaign to drive Britain from the province.

### Khmer Rouge shell Cambodian town

SISOPHON, Cambodia (AFP) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas shelled the central market in the border town of Poipet in Cambodia's northwestern Banteay Meanchey province, refugees from the town said Tuesday. The guerrillas shelled the town, which lies on the Thai-Cambodian border, early Tuesday and several rounds landed in the market area forcing some 100 civilians to flee to Sisopon, 48 kilometres (30 miles) east. There were no reports of casualties. Meanwhile a minister said Tuesday Cambodian leaders want United Nations military liaison officers to monitor infringements of the country's borders. The request was made by Co-Premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen during a recent meeting with U.N. representative Benny Widyono, Deputy Information Minister Khoue Kanharith said. The meeting followed accusations that Thailand assisted Khmer Rouge guerrillas recapture their headquarters at Pailin in northwest Cambodia. But the co-premiers did not explicitly ask for the border with Thailand to be monitored, a U.N. official added.

### S. Korea extends parliament session

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's parliament has extended a special session to try to resolve the dispute over its approval of a new premier, parliamentary officials said Tuesday. "The parliament called a general meeting at 11.30 p.m. (1430 GMT) last night and agreed to continue the current special parliamentary session until Thursday," a parliamentary official said. The session of the unicameral parliament was originally due to end Monday. Presidential aides had indicated that President Kim Young-Sam was preparing another cabinet shake-up. The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) have been haggling over parliamentary approval of Lee Yung-Dung, who was in charge of formulating policies about North Korea, as the new premier. Mr. Kim named Lee Yung-Dung Friday to replace Lee Hoi-Chang, who had stepped down as premier earlier in the day after a shock eruption of differences over the scope of the prime minister's power.

### Clinton urges ban on assault weapons

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton made a strong plea to the public and Congress to ban 19 types of semi-automatic weapons as part of a crime bill. "The weapons of choice for drug traffickers, gang members and paramilitary extremist groups are these assault weapons," Mr. Clinton said at a White House ceremony honouring crime victims. "I want to ask the law-abiding citizens of this country to tell Congress that it's okay to vote for this and take these kinds of weapons off our streets. I think the American people have a right to be safe and secure. How can we pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness if we don't have the most elemental security?" Last November, the Senate passed a ban on semi-automatic weapons as part of its crime bill. A similar bill, passed by the House of Representatives last week, did not include the ban, so the issue will have to be resolved by a House-Senate Conference Committee or in separate legisla-

tion. Mr. Clinton said if the House could pass the ban quickly, it could be included in the final version of the crime bill. But he told reporters he was not certain the House would agree.

### Malaysia swears in a new king

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Tuanku Jaafar Tuanku Abdul Rahman was sworn in Tuesday as Malaysia's king for the next five years in pomp and ceremony under the country's unique rotating monarchy. The keeper of the rulers' seal administered the oath of office to King Jaafar in the throne room of the state palace before his fellow sultans and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's cabinet. Mr. Mahathir then presented him with a proclamation declaring him king. King Jaafar, dressed in a yellow suit cut in the style of his home state of Negri Sembilan and wearing a bejeweled golden head-dress, signed and sealed the document at a conference table in front of a huge golden throne. Malaysia's nine hereditary sultans take turns every five years at being the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, or supreme sovereign, under a rotating constitutional monarchy established on independence from Britain in 1957. King Jaafar, 71, a former diplomat at the 10th sovereign of Malaysia. His father, Abdul Rahman Mohammad, was the first, but died a short time after ascending the throne.

### China postpones trial of dissidents

BEIJING (R) — China has suddenly postponed the trial, originally set for this week, of 14 dissidents who have been held on grave charges of counterrevolution for nearly two years, family members said Tuesday. They said they had originally been informed the trial would be held from Monday through Wednesday, but their lawyers had later been told the date had been changed to an unspecified time. A spokeswoman for the Beijing Intermediate Court said the case of the 14, the largest batch of political dissidents to face trial in China since the prosecutions related to the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations, was still in the pre-trial stage. She said by telephone it was difficult to say when the formal court session would be held. The postponement of the trial comes at a sensitive time for China, which is in the midst of a dispute with the United States over the link between human rights and trade.

### Moldova signals breakthrough on Dnestr issue

KISHINYOV (R) — Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has announced a breakthrough in the intractable separatist conflict over the Dnestr region and said peace talks would begin soon. Snegur said groups of experts from the Moldovan and Dnestr sides would negotiate under Russian and CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe) mediation. "We are speaking about a compromise now. The time when we wanted to solve this problem from a position of obstinacy has passed," Mr. Snegur said on television late Monday. Officials in the self-styled Dnestr Republic, a Slav-populated industrial region of the mainly Romanian-speaking country, confirmed the breakthrough. "It is very likely that very soon we will have a real negotiating process under way on the political status of our region," Yelena Yesimova, spokeswoman for Igor Smirnov, president of the Dnestr Republic, told Reuters.

### Nicaraguan army chief to bow out

MANAGUA (R) — General Humberto Ortega has announced that he would step down as Nicaragua's army chief, potentially defusing the government's crippling internal power struggle. Gen. Ortega, the brother of former leftist Sandinista president and opposition leader Daniel Ortega, did not give a date for his departure but said President Violeta Chamorro had accepted his resignation. He added that the terms of his resignation were included in military reform legislation to be put before the National Assembly in a matter of days. Gen. Ortega has made Mrs. Chamorro the target of bitter criticism from her political opponents. Mrs. Chamorro had argued that keeping Gen. Ortega at the helm of the military was a key part of political fence-mending after the country's civil war, but then announced last year — without consulting Gen. Ortega — that he would be out of the post in 1994. "While the road is a difficult one, I will not abandon my struggle for democracy," Gen. Ortega said, adding that that commitment was "stronger every day."

## Shaky truce holds in Rwandan capital

NAIROBI (AP) — A shaky ceasefire marred by brief, heavy mortar exchanges was holding in the Rwandan capital Tuesday, but militias continued their killing spree in the countryside.

United Nations spokesman Abdul Kobia in Kigali, the capital, said mortar rounds exploded near U.N. headquarters in the city and at the National Stadium where thousands of people remain under U.N. protection. There were no casualties.

LDP chief Yobei Kono raised the possibility of cooperating with the Socialists in parliament, a development that could set the stage for a no-confidence vote against the Hata government.

"What's happened to the Socialists is wrong... I think we'll be able to talk with them," he told reporters.

Barri Kaijeda, a lawmaker who has joined the new bloc, said Mr. Ozawa's aim was to force the break-up of both the Socialists and the LDP, twin pillars of Japan's cold war system.

"We're going to see many things unfold as a result of what's happened," he said. "The Socialists and the LDP are not united internally and they could begin unravelling."

Meanwhile, cabinet office spokesman Ishihara urged Mr. Hata to name his cabinet by Thursday so that government business could proceed smoothly. Japan starts a 10-day holiday from Friday.

After he was toppled by a corruption scan, Mr. Ozawa and Mr. Hata led a group of dissidents out of the LDP in 1993 and launched the Shinseito (Renewal Party) now dominating the coalition.

"We can't be sure yet," he said. "If there's a new cabinet by then, he'll meet the new one."

If not, he said, Mr. Rhee would probably meet Kazuo Aichi, the defence chief who resigned Monday.

The Socialists hold 74 seats

country is almost completely controlled by the RPF and we have not heard of any massacres there," Mr. Kobia said.

Relief workers estimate 100,000 people have been killed since the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi, both Hutus, were killed in a suspicious plane crash April 6.

The deaths triggered new bloodletting between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi ethnic groups and reigned Rwanda's civil war after a nine-month truce.

Both the government and the rebels declared unilateral ceasefires Monday, and Mr. Kobia said the United Nations delivered a terse, eight-paragraph proposed ceasefire agreement to both sides Tuesday morning. There was no immediate response to the U.N. proposal.

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# Sports

## 1993 soccer championship to be remembered for setting records

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times



Top scorer Jiryes Tadros

at JD 6,000-8,000.

The JFSC also considered as

final Al Faisali's 2-0 win over Al Arabi, Al Ramtha or Al Qadissieh had different results in the final week.

Al Baqaa also maintained the most consistent form among the 12 competing teams, winning 17 of their 22 matches, drawing in only two and losing only 1-0 to Al Hussein.

At the other end of the

standings, Al Faisali won their 25th division title with 57 points in the overall standings, a record 16 points away from

runners up Al Wihdat. The titleholders ended the season with a remarkable 51 goals, cancelling the previous record of 47 goals by Al Ramtha in 1981.

Al Faisali also maintained the most consistent form among the 12 competing teams, winning 17 of their 22 matches, drawing in only two and losing only 1-0 to Al Hussein.

The Kingdom's champions also won the cup winners' cup and the Jordan Cup titles, leaving only the Federation Shield tide to Al Ramtha.

Al Faisali's star Jiryes Tadros added another record to his team's achievements when he won the best striker award with 19 goals.

However, the sad violence incidents on the final day of the 22-week-old competition which ended Friday will also be recorded as the worst in Jordanian sports.

Following Friday's scuffle between players from Al Wihdat and Al Faisali, and the unruly actions of the attending fans who ravaged the newly-renovated Amman International Stadium, the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) took a number of decisions to redress the unsportsmanlike actions.

Hence Al Faisali's Rateb Al Awadhi, and Al Wihdat's Imad Al Zaghali were banned for life, while Al Wihdat's Jihad Abdul Munem, Samer Bahloh and Ali Mahmoud got a three-month suspension. A JD 1000 fine was imposed on Al Wihdat who will share with Al Faisali the cost of all damages to the stadium estimated

### FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	GP	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Faisali	22	17	2	2	1	51	10	57
Wihdat	22	9	6	2	5	25	22	41
Hussein	22	8	6	2	6	30	24	38
Qadissieh	22	7	6	3	6	34	19	36
Ahli	22	8	5	1	8	31	24	35
Arabi	22	7	7	—	8	28	36	35
Ramtha	22	9	3	1	9	32	28	34
Jazireh	22	6	8	—	8	31	30	34
Baqaa	22	9	2	2	9	27	31	33
Sahab	22	6	3	2	11	26	34	32
Fuheis	22	7	2	1	12	19	36	32
Yarmouk	22	5	—	2	15	20	50	17

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
©1993 Teaneck Media Services, Inc.

#### DON'T TRY FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

**NORTH**

♦ A 9 4 3

♦ J 6 4

♦ Q 7

♦ A 9 8 2

**WEST**

EAST

♦ A K Q

♦ 7 8 7 2

♦ J 10 9 8

♦ 6 5 4 3

♦ 10 7 6 2

**SOUTH**

♦ Q J 10 7 6

♦ 10 5 2

♦ A K 2

♦ Q 4

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass 1+

Pass 3+ Pass Pass

Pass

Opening lead: King of ♦

The Seabees produced that they

can do the impossible immediately.

Perhaps, but the prudent bridge

player will never clear of the impossible

in a few lines of some that is more

likely to bring home the bacon.

With a dead minimum opening

bid including an insufficiently

guarded honor, nothing short of a

jump shift was going to make South

a second time. North's hand was

not good enough for anything that

### POSTPONED

Designer Hana Sadeq Beraudo announces the postponement of her fashion show originally scheduled for 6:30 tonight at Philadelphia Hotel until May 7, 1994.

### FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

135 square metres, nicely furnished three bedroom apartment, third floor with a nice view, 2 bathrooms, separate central heating, telephone and garage.

Call 862862

## Olympic champion admits to doping

BONN (R) — Former Olympic javelin champion Ruth Fuchs of East Germany admitted Tuesday she took steroids on her way to two gold medals in the 1970s but said she had made it a full opening bid, so East was marked with a throw-in play.

Other than dropping a singleton king of trumps, there is only one possible bid that would permit declarer to land the contract. East had to hold a doubleton king of spades, so that the part-score had to be made with a throw-in play.

Declarer should win the diamond shift in dummy, cash the ace of spades and ace-king of diamonds then exit with a trump. In with the king of spades, East has a choice of losing options—a club would allow declarer's queen to win and a club would permit declarer to draw a club from hand while ruffing on the table. Either way, declarer would not lose a club.

"It was a drug to regenerate my body because of the hard training I had in winter,"

Fuchs said. "But it was not a drug that manipulated my performances. I knew I was doing something that was not allowed...but I was convinced that other athletes were doing it."

### CAR FOR SALE

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announces the sale of a 1986 Peugeot 505SR car. Duty unpaid.

Delivery at Amman Customs Office, through sealed envelope offers addressed to the managing director.

For those willing to examine the car, it is now parked at the Customs Office in Shmeisani, near Al Shmeisani Hospital, during office hours (from 8 a.m. till 2 p.m.) for one week.

## NBA survives without Michael Jordan

WASHINGTON (AFP) —

U.S. basketball fans discovered there is life after Michael Jordan. It's just much less predictable.

Jordan's parting gift to the National Basketball Association (NBA) has been the most exciting title race in 15 years. A record 10 clubs with 50 or more victories are legitimate title threats in the playoff chase beginning Thursday.

Jordan's Chicago Bulls were overwhelming favourites after winning their third straight NBA crown last year, but his retirement last October robbed the league of a clear frontrunner.

Seattle had the league's best record at 63-19. New York and Houston both had 15-game win streaks while Atlanta won 14 in a row. Chicago, expected to struggle without Jordan, won 53 games, only two fewer than last year.

"People anticipated we were just going to pass away without Michael," Chicago's Scottie Pippen said. "Everybody anticipated Chicago would fall aside and the Knicks would just take off. The Knicks had a great season. It's just other teams have had a great season around them."

Without Jordan's aerial moves, tall men in the middle became the NBA's centre of attention. San Antonio's David Robinson won the league scoring title, hitting an astounding 71 points in his final game to edge out Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal. Robinson became the first centre since Bob McAdoo in 1976 to lead NBA scorers, taking the throne Jordan owned for the previous seven years.

Orlando's O'Neal took Jordan's role as the league's top attraction and endorsement king. The Magic sold out 35 of 41 road games and O'Neal was popularised in several television commercials. O'Neal, second in points and rebounds, sparked the youthful Magic to their first playoff berth.

Seattle were among several clubs searching in vain for the respect given Jordan's title team.

"We ain't never going to get no respect so we don't worry about that," Seattle guard Gary Payton said. "It's fine. We don't need the hype. When we win the championship, they're going to say, 'where did that team come from?'

NBA scoring dropped to its lowest level in 40 years as defence became vital for top teams. Only NBA scoring leaders Phoenix won with an

offensive emphasis."

The Sonics stressed team play on offense and defence, producing six double-figure scorers and a pressuring defence. A trade with Indiana for Germany's Detlef Schrempf as the season began was crucial.

"Detlef was the final piece of the puzzle," Seattle coach George Karl said. "He brought just what we needed to complement Shawn's play underneath. We feel good about our chances."

New faces bolstered other

hopefuls. San Antonio brought

Dennis Rodman from Detroit and he led NBA rebounders

for a third straight year,

pulling down 17 a game. Atlanta sent Veteran Dominique Wilkins to the Los Angeles Clippers for Danny Manning and won the Eastern Conference for the first time ever.

"Bringing Danny here has fired up a lot," Atlanta centre Kevin Willis said. "Nique was very important, but Danny has meant a lot to the team. The chemistry is very good."

Overseas players made their

mark on the NBA, paced by

Schrempf, Croatians Toni

Kukoc of Chicago and Dino

Radja of Boston, Australia's

Luc Longley for Chicago,

Dutchman Rik Smits of Indiana,

Nigerian-born Hakeem Olajuwon of Houston and De

ver's Dikembe Mutombo, the

NBA's blocked shots leader

from Zaire.

Detroit, Boston and the Los

Angels Lakers, dominant in

the 1980s, all finished out of

the playoffs, ending post-sea

son appearance streaks of 10,

14 and 17 years respectively.

Magic Johnson returned to coach the Lakers for their final 16 games, but was unhappy about selfish attitudes and vowed never to coach again. Other coaches fared better. Golden State's Don Nelson won his 800th game, New York's Pat Riley coached his 700th victory and journeyman Larry Brown revived Indiana. They and Karl led coach of the year hopefuls.

Saudi Arabia and could well

struggle to make the second

round this time.

When the draw was

announced a local daily headlined its story from Las Vegas: "Groan."

Morocco are hoping to advance by being one of the four best third-placed finishers, scratching out a draw with European sides and then beating the Saudis by as big a margin as possible.

Coincidentally Morocco and Saudi Arabia have already met each other in international competition in the United States. In 1984 Morocco beat the Saudi 1-0 in the first round of the Los Angeles Olympics soccer competition at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, the venue for this summer's final.

The United States collected 10 votes, Morocco seven and Brazil just two.

Although the United States could not be matched in terms of communications, facilities and marketing opportunities, they were a poor second to the Saudis in their passion for the game.

Unfortunately for Morocco, that was not enough to enable them to clinch the vote needed to stage the event.

Morocco realistically lacks the infrastructure to stage an event as huge as the World Cup and few Moroccans ever thought they really would host the tournament.

What they are far more upset about is losing to West Germany in the dying seconds of their second round clash in Monterrey in Mexico in 1986 when they were beaten 1-0 by an 89th minute Lothar Matthaus free-kick.

This will be Morocco's third appearance in the World Cup following their debut in Mexico in 1970 and their creditable showing back in Mexico 16 years later when they drew with Poland and England before beating Portugal 3-1 to top their first round group.

But their squad this year looks like being the weakest to represent the country so far.

# Israel, PLO report deal delayed further

CAIRO (Agencies) — The chief delegates to Israeli-Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiations conceded Tuesday that negotiations will drag into next week, further delaying the start of Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The judgments by Israeli Major General Amnon Shahak and the PLO's Nabil Shaath reversed earlier optimism about a signing early next week of an agreement on starting limited Palestinian self-rule in the two areas.

"There is a long list of issues that still need answers. I don't think it will end this week," Gen. Shahak told reporters. "If we don't finish, we will come here next week."

Still, both Dr. Shaath and Gen. Shahak insisted an agreement was nearly at hand.

Gen. Shahak said negotiators were concluding talks on two major obstacles, security and legal jurisdiction in the self-rule zones. Dr. Shaath said he could not discuss a third dispute on freeing Palestinian prisoners because "we are making progress."

The issues still tying up agreement:

Crossing points for Jewish settlers going from Gaza to Israel and the passage of Palestinians through Israeli territory on the 100 kilometres between Gaza and Jericho.

Whether Israel or Palestinians will have legal jurisdiction over Israelis and foreigners who are accused of crimes in the self-rule zones.

Release of Palestinian prisoners beyond 5,000 already agreed on. The PLO wants freedom for all; Israel is refusing to release members of Hamas, which opposes the peace talks, or those who committed violent crimes.

Dr. Shaath said both sides were doing their best "to finish as soon as possible."

Israel and the PLO would continue discussion of the outstanding points immediately after an accord had been signed, Dr. Shaath said.

Dr. Shaath said: "We may delay these (points) beyond the signature day, but that will not leave anything important."

He said last week negotiators had agreed a final accord would be ready for signing between May 2 and 4.

Under the declaration of principles signed in September Israel was due to complete a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho by April 13.

Gen. Shahak said Israel and the PLO were "not deeply divided over fundamental questions, but there are a huge number of points which need to be resolved, and some risk posing problems."

Earlier he stressed that security and the scope of Palestinian jurisdiction had to be settled before an accord was signed. An agreement on jurisdiction was close, he added.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin also said security matters could not be left until later.

"We do not have to settle all the outstanding differences... on the other hand it is impossible to put off until later questions relating to security," he told Israeli Radio from Moscow.

Among questions which could be delayed where the definition of an "international presence" in Gaza and Jericho, which are scheduled for July 13, are unlikely to be held before mid-October.

Saeed Erakat, head of the Palestinian election committee, said delays in implementing the Sept. 13 autonomy accord had set back election plans.

"We will do our homework regardless," Dr. Erakat told AFP in his office at the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem.

"We know we can't hold elections without having the negotiations finalised."

"But, we will prepare ourselves and show the world we are ready, regardless, ready for elections no later than Oct. 15."

He said preparations had begun for elections to a legislative council of 100 members.

About 30 members of an executive Palestinian National Authority would also be elected, with the rest appointed by Mr. Arafat.

The European Union, along with Japan, Canada, the United States, Russia and the Scandinavian countries will monitor the campaign and voting.

Europe is also training some 6,000 Palestinian administrators for the elections. An initial group of 30 Palestinians are to go to Germany for training early next month.

"We are finalising now to present the leadership with our

(Continued on page 3)

# Troops kill one in Hebron; 2 Israeli Arabs held in blast

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Demonstrations broke out in Hebron Tuesday after soldiers killed a Palestinian they said tried to stab a trooper. Locals said the shooting was unprovoked.

Also Tuesday, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas claimed responsibility for killing an Israeli soldier and officials said two Israeli Arabs were among 27 Palestinians arrested overnight for a suicide bombing of a bus two weeks ago.

Police identified the two Arabs as Atef Kabaha, 46, and Majed Kabaha, 48, from the Arab village of Barta that straddles the West Bank and Israel.

Atef is suspected of taking the assailant to the northern town of Hadera on April 13.

shot him from a metre away.

"It was an execution, a deliberate shooting without provocation," said Fayez Ismail Kafisheh, a school teacher who saw the incident from her balcony.

The alleged involvement of Israeli Arabs raised an outcry, causing Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to chide reporters for making ethnic origins an issue.

"When someone is guilty, just one person is guilty, let's not blame all Arabs," he said.

In Hebron, seven people were injured when soldiers opened fire to disperse demonstrators that erupted after Kamel Hussein Uridat, 35, a shoemaker from Dahariya village south of Hebron, was shot dead.

Witnesses said three soldiers stopped Uridat at a roadblock ordered him out of his car then

"I believe they (the PLO) will have an incentive in fact to prove that in the areas that are under their authority terrorism will go down," Lieutenant-General Ehud Barak was quoted as saying.

"They will impose pressure on Hamas to limit (guerrilla) activities in Gaza and Jericho because it will give them a basis for their political argument that goes: 'the areas you have given us are being run in relative quiet and now we want to expand these areas.'

Gen. Barak also said that he would not be surprised if Hamas eventually cooperated with a PLO-led Palestinian autonomy, Israeli army radio reported.

Gen. Barak reportedly estimated that it would take the army two weeks to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho once an agreement was reached, in contrast to previous estimates that said withdrawal could take place within 24 hours.

U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian told American fund-raisers Tuesday that in order for peace to be achieved in the Middle East, negotiations had to advance on all fronts in order to prevail over extremist violence.

"It is quite frankly a race against time as to which tendency will ultimately prevail," he said.



Israeli soldiers on Tuesday arrest a Palestinian boy in the occupied Gaza Strip (AFP photo)



Takozza, a black township outside Johannesburg (AFP photo)

# South African blacks vote — 'free at last'

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Defying bombs and bureaucratic hunging, black South Africans voted for the first time on Tuesday in a resounding declaration that they were free at last.

Other voters go to the polls on Wednesday and Thursday after the birth, at midnight (2200 GMT) on Tuesday, of the new nation.

The old South African flag,

symbol of oppression to millions, was to be lowered in major cities then and a new constitution to take effect.

Voters turned out with remarkable enthusiasm on Tuesday to put their crosses over the grave of apartheid.

A spate of bombings, blamed on white extremists making a last stand against black rule, killed 21 people and wounded 162 since Sunday — two in an attack on a black war in the capital Pretoria barely 10 hours before the polls opened.

Reformist President F.W. de Klerk, who took his 89-year-old mother Corrie to vote in Pretoria, told reporters he was buoyant.

"It was my policy that there should come an end to minority rule," said the man who freed Nelson Mandela from prison in 1990 and began dismantling apartheid — the basic policy plank of his national party since 1948.

Mr. Mandela, who spent 27 of his 75 years in prison for fighting apartheid and stands on the verge of power, joined Mr. De Klerk in condemning what the president called "the lunatic fringe to the right."

"We will not let a handful of killers steal our democracy," Mandela told reporters.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace prize winner like Mr. Mandela and Mr. De Klerk, said he was "walking on clouds ... like falling in love."

The bombings, he said, were like "the last kicks of a dying horse."

"We are very disturbed that despite assurances that IFP stickers would be sent to all voting stations, this was not done," Mr. Mathews said.

Apart from a lack of stickers, he added, other problems experienced were failure of electoral officers to turn up at polling stations, a shortage of IEC monitors, youths helping elderly people to fill in their ballot boxes and members of the IFP's archival, the African National Congress (ANC), acting as monitors.

"We are very disturbed that despite assurances that IFP stickers would be sent to all voting stations, this was not done," Mr. Mathews said.

During the cold war, the Soviet Union championed the Arab cause against Israel. But the collapse of communism, and the growth of a large Russian-speaking community in Israel, have shaken up this traditional alignment.

Israel and Moscow re-established diplomatic relations in October 1991 which had been broken off in 1967.

Moscow, a co-sponsor with Washington of the peace process, has until this year taken a back seat. But, as part of a general shaking-off of post-Soviet inertia in foreign policy, it is now keen to be seen doing more in the Middle East.

On Tuesday, Mr. Rabin rejected a Russian plan for a second international confer-

# Serbs continue pullout amid U.N. optimism

ZAGREB (Agencies) — The United Nations said Tuesday that the Bosnian Serbs were making progress in withdrawing their heavy weapons from around the Muslim enclave of Gorazde as a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) deadline approached.

"Generally we are satisfied with the progress that is taking place on the ground," United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Michael Williams said ahead of the 0001 GMT Wednesday deadline.

Under the NATO ultimatum issued on Friday, Serb forces must pull all their heavy weaponry outside a 20-kilometre zone around the eastern Bosnian town by the

deadline or face air strikes.

In Washington, White House spokeswoman Dee Myers said the Serbs were clearly on track for complying with the ultimatum.

"They're clearly in the process of complying, but exactly where they are I don't know," she said, adding: "The ultimatum still stands."

In Brussels, NATO and UN commanders for Bosnia-Herzegovina gave a cautiously optimistic assessment of the Serb withdrawal.

NATO issued the new threat after the Bosnian Serbs defied repeated calls to stop attacking Gorazde, including appeals from their Russian allies.

U.S. warplanes operating under NATO command

bombed Serb positions near Gorazde earlier this month, but the raids did little other than infuriate the Serbs and prompt them to detain U.N. personnel and break off contact with the United Nations.

As the Serb offensive on

Gorazde continued, NATO

agreed to extend to Gorazde

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under a similar weapons-withdrawal ultimatum to the Serbs.

General Bernard de Lapeyre and Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, commander of U.N. forces in ex-Yugoslavia

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Differences between Presi-

dent Ali Abdullah Saleh and his Vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh are threatening Yem-

en's four-year-old unity and

paralysing the government.

Mr. Saleh who ruled con-

servative North Yemen and

Mr. Beidh, leader of the Marx-

ist South Yemen, merged the

two parts in May 1990, but

differences that emerged in

August raised fears of redivi-

sion.

"Secession will be the fuse

# 253 killed in Taiwanese plane crash in Japan

TOKYO (Agencies) — At least 253 people died when a China Airlines Airbus A-300 with 271 people on board crashed and exploded into flames while landing Tuesday evening at Nagoya airport in central Japan, officials said.

Transport Ministry officials corrected the number of people on board from 272 to 271, saying that they had counted a crew member twice.

The officials said eight people were still listed as missing some seven hours after the crash while 10 people had been treated at hospitals after they were rescued from the debris.

The plane, on a flight from Taipei to Nagoya, had 158 Japanese passengers and 99 foreign passengers, including two infants, as well as 14 crew members.

A Transport Ministry official said that minutes before the crash, pilot Wang Lo-Chi radioed that he would abandon his landing attempt and try again. The pilot did not give a reason. In his last transmission, he said only "going around."

The plane, flying in from

Taipei, Taiwan, crashed several hundred metres to the right of the runway. Had it gone another 200 metres straight ahead, it would have hit a housing area.

It ended up just short of several hangars of an air self-defence forces base at the airport, and a quick response by airmen at the base was credited with saving some lives.

A Transport Ministry official said the fire was put out about 40 minutes after the crash.

Hours later, some 3,000 police, firemen and troops were gingerly lifting wreckage by hand in the search for the final victims.

The crash was the second worst in Japanese aviation history. The worst single-plane accident in any country occurred Aug. 12, 1985, when a Japan Airlines Boeing 747 crashed into a mountain on a domestic flight, killing 520 people.

The plane, Flight 140, was carrying 256 passengers including two infants, and 15 crew members when it crashed at

(Continued on page 3)

# Israel cautious on Russian role

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Israel's visiting Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appeared slightly unconvinced about Russia's hopes of a bigger role in the Middle East peace process after meetings on Tuesday with the president and foreign and defence ministers.

But Mr. Rabin, who was due later on Tuesday to leave Moscow after an evening news conference, said Israel was keen to broaden bilateral ties.

"In all my negotiations, I understood that Russia has an interest in the future in continuing the work of establishing peace and security in the Middle East," Mr. Rabin said after his final meeting with Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

"Perhaps this is a bit different from what happened with the Soviet Union in the past